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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY.

IN CASE of Russia and Turkey coming to blows about the Montegerin difficulty, would England afford armed support to her ancient ally? When the last English mail left, this question, says a contemporary, was greatly agitating the London clubs. Of course, the military ones held that both her honor and safety were concerned in instantly declaring war, should the Russian Bear attempt to place his felonious paw on the European provinces of the Ottoman empire. But according to letters received from correspondents placed in positions to guage public opinion, there was a wide-spread impression in all circles except the exclusively military, that if Turkey fell into hot water, she must extricate herself in the best way possible. Neither England, France, Austria or Germany desires to see that upsetting of the balance of power which is certain to follow the dismemberment of Turkey. But the three last will not do anything to assist a Power which does nothing to help itself, while even in England, the opinion seems gaining ground that the time for the disendowment and disestablishment of the Ottoman Empire cannot be much longer delayed.

MR. WOOLRYCH, the Westminster Magistrate, lately held that an atheist could not give evidence in a court of justice. A witness having declined to be sworn on the plea that he was an atheist, the Magistrate refused to receive his evidence and the case broke down. "An atheist is not competent to be a witness in a court of justice," was the law laid down by Mr. Woolrych. In this country such a question cannot arise, because the law permits the administration of solemn or simple affirmation in lieu of oath.

THE ENGLISHMAN has received an hostile information from Cabul to the effect that Herat was occupied by the Amir's troops, without any fighting, on the 19th January. On the same day, Sardar Muhammad Ayub Khan fled to Meshed, for which place his principal followers, General Fakir Muhammad Khan and Sardar Muhammad Hassan Khan, had already started on the previous night. The Amir's Agent, Shahgazi Sher Dil Khan, who was formerly taken prisoner by Sardar Ayub, and sent to Ghorian, has re-entered Herat, accompanied by Khan Aka, the powerful Jamshadi Chief, who, though father-in-law to Sardar Muhammad Yakub Khan, has declared for the Amir. So the *coup d'etat* of Amir Shere Ali has proved eminently successful.

IT is stated that the Madras Government has approved of the rules proposed by the Madras Municipality for the election of the Municipal Commissioners by the votes of the rate-payers. The qualification of a voter is payment of taxes to the amount of Rs. 30 per annum.

WE NOTICE the invention of a new reporting machine. It is said that as the letters are arranged in such a way that the most frequent combinations can be struck at once, a speed of sixty words a minute can easily be obtained by an average operator—more than double what can be done with pen and ink or pencil without using confusing abbreviations. The instrument will be most useful for verbatim reporting, but in good hands it would also suit for condensations, and even for paragraphs. The reporter keeps his note-book before him and plays away as he would on a pianoforte, producing copy of the most excellent description. More than this, twenty copies of the same thing may be produced at the one printing. Has any of our Indian contemporaries received this reporting machine?

THE HOE MACHINES erected at the *Daily Telegraph* office are now in full operation. These working simultaneously enable the *Telegraph* to be printed at the prodigious rate of 100, 000 an hour.

THE JEALOUSY of the Press is not confined to Indian officials. The following remarkable notice has been issued to the Savings Bank Department of the General Post Office, England:

"The attention of the Postmaster-General has been called to paragraphs which have from time to time appeared in the London newspapers on matters connected with the Savings' Bank Department, paragraphs which directly or indirectly must have emanated from members of the Department itself. . . . As a means of abating what is fast becoming a public Scandal, his Lordship desires that until further notice all promotions and all increments with regard to the whole of the force under the Controller of the Savings Bank be arrested.

The duration of the arrest, and the limits of its application will very much depend upon three circumstances:—(1.) Whether the persons who have been privy to any such communications to the newspapers during the last two months give up their names. (2.) Should these persons not do so within three days, then, whether those who have not, either directly or indirectly, been privy to such communications, thereupon make a written statement to that effect. (3.) Whether, from this day, any more communications find their way into the newspapers which could not be made except by persons belonging to the Savings Bank.

It is with deep regret that his Lordship feels constrained thus to deal with an entire Department, but this is one of those cases in which the innocent (until they purge themselves) cannot be distinguished from the guilty."

So the whole department is punished for the sake of the peccadilloes of some stray members of it.

AN AMERICAN contemporary gives the following advice to newspaper writers:

"1. Be brief. This is the age of telegraphs and stenography. 2. Be pointed. Don't write all around a subject without hitting it. 3. State facts, but don't stop to moralize. It is a drowsy subject. Let the reader do his own dreaming. 4. Eschew preface. Plunge at once into your subject, like a swimmer into cold water. 5. If you have written a sentence that you think particularly fine, draw your pen through it. A pet child is always the worst in the family. 6. Condense. Make sure that you really have an idea, and then record it in the shortest possible terms. We want thoughts in their quintessence. 7. When your article is completed, strike out nine-tenths of the adjectives."

TUESDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY.

THERE ARE now published in the United Kingdom and the Channel Islands 137 daily newspapers distributed as follows:—London, 21; Provinces, 78; Scotland, 15; Ireland, 18; Wales, 2; the Islands, 3.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE has issued revised rules for the supply of copies of information, respecting papers and documents in the Collectors' Office. Applications are to be received from the public for—

(I.)—Information respecting the contents of papers and documents in the Collector's office, whether such information be or be not required for the purpose of correctly describing such documents in applications for copies of the same.

(II.)—Unstamped copies of papers and documents, of which copies may by law be given on unstamped paper.

(III.)—Stamped copies of papers and documents.

"For copies of the surveyor's village plans, supplied on the requisition of private parties, the ordinary rate is to be 1 rupee per sheet: but should the internal delineations be intricate, and the labor be enhanced in proportion, the rate may be increased at the discretion of the Collector within the limit of 2 Rupees per sheet. For copies of tukbast maps, the ordinary fee to be charged is 4 annas per sheet, and of khasra maps 8 annas per sheet; subject to increase, at the discretion of the Collector, to the same rate as for professional maps, and even beyond it, in proportion to the amount of labor involved in copying.

Collectors are to encourage in every legitimate way the widest distribution of these maps among those interested in them."

A LATE official report, says the *Agricultural Gazette*, shows there is every prospect that potato cultivation in Burma may be pursued with great advantage to the Hill Karens who have inaugurated it, and to the province at large. A Rangoon committee have examined the samples sent down from the hills, and have pronounced them superior in flavour, size, solidity, and "mealiness" to any grown in the province. The seed was sown after the first shower of the mousoon of 1874, and the tubers were dug up in September and October. The prospects of agricultural improvement in British Burma seem to be very promising.

THE EMPIRE of Germany, says the above journal, includes a forest-area of 56,460 square miles. Of this area 34 per cent. belongs to Government; 16 per cent. to individuals, or societies, and the remainder to individual proprietors. Upland forests embrace 81 per cent. of the whole, and conifers, 55 per cent. About 310,000 acres are devoted to oak for tanning. The net profits for forest-land range from 56 cents to $3·56 per acre. At an average income of 77 cents per acre, the value of the German forests is computed at $466,000,000. German forestry is reputed to be the best in the world.

A RAID has recently taken place on a New York theatre to suppress the dancing of the "*can can*." The police of New York, says an American paper, performed the functions of the Lord Chamberlain in London, and appear to do so in a more summary fashion:

"The Metropolitan Theatre, New York, had been giving various entertainments, and among the attraction was the "can-can." On Dec. 23, the performance went on as usual until, about 10 o'clock, Captain Mercer sent a force of men to the Mercer-street entrance, and then he took a force to the Broadway entrance of the theatre. In the middle of the "can-can," Captain M'Donnell sprang up on the stage, and to the consternation of every body the police began to press in at all passages. The most intense excitement prevailed; the spectators arose from their seats and made a rush to the door, supposing that every body was to be arrested. The women in their ballet costumes ran hither and thither and huddled together in the wings. The theatre was soon emptied and at length the curtain dropped upon the scene. Captain M'Donnell's officers had secured all those upon the stage, and producing the warrants, those were selected who were named therein. The women arrested were formed in to a line, and guarded by officers, were marched to the Prince-street Police station. When they found that they are to be locked up some laughed and cried by turns, others fainted, others shrieked for mercy and begged the police not to lock them up, but they were soon placed in the cells. Samuel Shapter, the proprietor of the Metropolitan theatre, was arrested early the next morning.

THE FOLLOWING proclamation has been issued from the Prefecture of police in Japan:—"Any person in European costume meeting His Imperial Majesty will be obliged to salute the Emperor by holding his hat under left arm, and lowering his right hand to his knees. Those who do not wear a hat will be obliged to lower both hands to the knees whilst bowing before the Emperor."

THE GOVERNMENT of Madras has passed the following Resolution on the subject of the medical education of ladies:

"The Government are desirous of every encouragement being given to ladies to study for a degree; in which case as observed by Dr Furnell, they must attend the full curriculum of prescribed studies; but, where the ladies themselves prefer the more limited and practical course of study suggested by Dr. Furnell in paragraphs 4 and 5 of his Memorandum. Arrangements may be made accordingly, and, on the completion of the course of study, certificates can be given by the College authorities of the degree of proficiency acquired in each subject. The division of the courses of study recommended in paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 of the Memorandum is approved, and the Government fully concur with the Surgeon-General and Dr. Furnell that, with the exceptions specified ladies desirous of becoming Doctors must be prepared to attend the courses of lectures with students of the opposite sex. The Government understand these exceptions to be, Midwifery and Surgery, and one or two of lectures in Anatomy and Physiology. By the adoption of the arrangement proposed by Dr. Balfour of allowing the ladies to attend the lectures given at the Lying-in Hospital by the Assistant Medical Officers to the Pupil Midwives, it would appear that no additional expense need be incurred on account of Midwifery lectures. . . . No fees will be required for the present from lady-students."

WEDNESDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY.

THE HOUSE of Representatives, Washington, has rejected a Resolution which proposed an amendment of the Constitution extending the President's term of office to six years and rendering his re-election impossible.

IN A speech at Birmingham Mr. Bright paid a graceful tribute to Mr. Milner Gibson in connection with the liberty of the press:

"I cannot stop to tell you the condition of the press, in those days, 30 or 40 years ago, but it was in this condition—it was not absolutely forbidden by law to have a newspaper, but by taxes the newspapers were so strangled that very few could live, and those that could live were wonderfully inferior to the newspapers we have now. (Hear.) Why, in your School Boards your spread of education, and the growth of knowledge among the young, the newspapers will become a still greater agent for the spread of intelligence, there is no man that I know who has done greater or more lasting service to the working class, especially of this country, than the man who was mainly instrumental in striking off the taxes upon the press. (Applause."

THE NEW LEADER of the Liberal party seems to differ with Mr. Bright on a cardinal point. The man of the people advocates the disestablishment of the Church, but the noble chief of the Liberals is of a different opinion. The Marquis of Hartington thus spoke on the subject at a late Liberal Demonstration:

"Let us take a speech just delivered—the speech of Mr. Bright. Now, I do not agree with that speech; I do not agree with Mr. Bright; I do not think he attaches nearly sufficient weight to the hold which the Church of England has upon the affections of the people of this country. (Cheers.) I do not think he attaches nearly sufficient weight to the good which the Church does, though I think he attaches a good deal too much weight to the defects and faults which, of course, are to be found within its pale. At the same time, I know that Mr. Bright conscientiously and firmly holds the opinions which he has advocated, and that he will do all in his power to gain the approval of the country for his opinions with regard to religious establishment. But does he ask his friends to make the disestablishment of the Church a test question? Does he ask you to refuse your confidence to every one who will not vote for the disestablishment of the Church? Nothing of the kind. Mr. Bright intends to agitate for the disestablishment of the Church as he and Mr. Cobden agitated for the principle of FreeTrade—by persuading the people of the justice and truth of the principles he advocates. He was right then, and he succeeded. If he is right

now I believe he will again succeed; but if he is wrong now, as I believed he is, he will not succeed. That seems to me to be the Liberal principle of carrying the reforms we want to carry to try to pursuade people of their justice and truth, but not to endeavour to force them upon unwilling constituencies and unwilling candidates. (Hear, hear.)"

This was very conciliatory, but we doubt whether such soft sawder will reconcile a man of strong convictions as Mr. Bright is.

THE 19TH DAY of January, says the St. Petersburgh correspondent of the *Times*, was a great day in the Russian Empire. It was the 6th of January according to the Old Style, the Feast of the Epiphany, and the waters were blessed in every place where "Orthodox" Christians reside. From the frontiers of Prussia to Kamtschatka, and from Arkangel to Tashkend, the whole of Russia was occupied in an open-air ceremony, which is, perhaps, the most picturesque of those customary in the Eastern Church.

THE RUSSIAN CLERGY are rejoicing at a conversion of a great Buddhist priest on the frontier of Tartary. He was the Chief Lama of Northern Mongolia—in rank only second to the Dulia Lama of Lassa, and the Bishop of Irkoutsk, Monsignor Benjamin, naturally thinks that this conversion will have immense influence in Tartary.

THE PALL MALL GAZETTE has the following:

"The German papers appear to be sadly concerned just now about our relations with Nepaul. Lord Northbrook is evidently very ill-informed as to the pressing dangers of our position in regard to his mountain neighbour. Indeed, certain courtesies exchanged during the late famine, which touched the border of Nepaul rather severely have seemed outwardly to show a very good understanding. By way of Berlin, however, we learn, on the authority of watchful German correspondents in the East, that Sir Jung Bahadoor chafes greatly at the vassalage implied by the presence of a British Resident at his Court; and, preferring to regard the Emperor of China as his only lawful suzerain, sends regularly every fifth year a private embassy to Pekin to assure him of his fidelity, and deliver him handsome presents. This must be very painful to the Resident if he knows it, the more especially as one writer assures the *Norddeutsche Zeitung* that our military strength in India is so far decayed that we are no longer able to spare the company of Europeans formerly allowed for the guard of the Katmandoo Residency. Under these circumstances it is not surprising to learn that the able ruler of Nepaul has made up his mind to wrest from us that part of the ancient kingdom annexed more than 50 years since. In short, before the Duffla troubles are over—that is, if the chiefs in that quarter do not make the utmost haste to surrender—we shall probably be involved in another struggle, and the camp of exercise which Sir Jung has lately held near our Bhootan frontier will prove but the preliminary to an invasion and a struggle which, as the correspondent sees it, "cannot fail to be both very bloody and very obstinate." As we once conquered Nepaul before, however, we are not without hopes that we could possibly repeat the feat, should Sir Jung really make it necessary by invading us. We had hoped that he had learnt better manners during his visit to our gilded saloons."

MR. JUSTICE MELLOR remarked a few weeks since at the Liverpool Assizes that "if there are missionaries wanted to the heathen, there are heathens in England, who require teaching a great deal more than those abroad," and also that "reform, like charity, ought to begin at home." An Englishman can always say more about his countrymen than befits the lips of an Indian.

THURSDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY.

WE TAKE from the *Times* the following description of a gold casket containing the address of the City of London to the Emperor of Russia manufactured by Mr. Benson of Ludgate-hill:

"The design adopted is an oblong case of gold supported upon balls of solid malachite. The minor ornamentation of the case is supplied by the heraldic insignia of England, Russia, and of the City, but the principal artistic detail is a miniature painting representing the delivery of the address. The scene is enamelled upon a plate of gold 2½in. high by 4½in. wide, which will be framed in the obverse side of the casket, the reverse of the casket bearing an inscription. Eleven figures are painted on these few square inches of surface, and the tallest figure is 1 11-16in. in height, while any of the faces can be covered with the top of a pencil. In that small space, however, the artist, a young lady named Mdlle. Hebert, living at Geneva, has given a life-like and effective representation of the scene in Guildhall. On the right of the picture stands upon a dais the Emperor Alexander, in the uniform of a General of his Army, his tunic crossed by the riband of the Garter, and decked with the other Orders which used to glitter on his breast; on his right hand the Duchess of Edinburgh wearing an orange-coloured dress, then our Prince of Wales and the Grand Duke Alexis. On the left is the Princess of Wales, in light-blue, bodice and deep-blue velvet skirt, the velvet in the miniature such as only lady or Mr. Millais could paint. The Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Cambridge, in uniform and in their Orders, complete the Royal group. The dark crimson hangings used on State occasions at the Guildhall make a good background, but to the left there is a better effect in the stone flutings of the ancient hall, on which the sun, through the mullioned windows, is tracing delicate patterns in light and shade. On this side of the picture is the group of citizens, the Lord Mayor (Sir Andrew Lusk, M.P.) in front, and on his right the Right Hon. the Recorder (Mr. Russell Gurney, Q.C., M.P.) reading the address. Behind them stands Mr. Edward Hart, Chairman of the Reception Committee, who proposed the address in the Court of Common Council, and his blue robe of a member of the Common Council contrasts effectively with the crimson robes of office of the Lord Mayor, the Recorder, and the seconder of the address, Mr. Alderman Besley. There are two other enamelled miniatures to be placed in smaller panels of the casket, and they represent the eastern and western ends of the Guildhall."

A BENARES Correspondent reports the murder of a boy by an ascetic, who it is said could "digest doses of arsenic." We are informed that he has confessed his guilt. The ornaments which the poor boy wore tempted him to the foul deed.

A BEHARI writes to us highly applauding the appointment of Mr. Croft as Inspector of schools in Behar. He says that not only is light much needed *from*, but also *for* Behar. He expects great reforms in the management of Behar Schools under the superintendence of Mr. Croft. We shall be glad to hear from our correspondent, if he has any practical suggestion to make.

IT IS stated that the train which brought H. H. the Maharajah of Indore to Calcutta on Saturday last had a narrow escape from a serious collision. While travelling through the Raneegunge station the driver saw some waggons ahead. With much presence of mind and activity he succeeded in stopping his engine within a few yards of the obstruction.

ACTIVE preparations are in progress for the Viceroy's Durbar at Delhi. The attendance will be considerable, while the elephant procession—in which the Chiefs present will pass through the streets of the Moghul capital in the suite of the Viceroy—will, according to the *Pioneer's* Delhi correspondent, "be a sight worth coming far to see."

IT IS stated that His Highness the Maharaja of Rewah has addressed a communication to the Supreme Government, requesting it to take over the administration of his territory, for the remainder of his reign and for the minority of his successor.

THE FRIEND OF INDIA states that a learned Shastri of Nassick, named Govind Shastri Lele, sixty years old, has embraced Christianity. This is said to be the first conversion of an old learned Brahmin in Western India. How many "learned Brahmins" are there in the Christian flock in India? Can they be counted by tens?

FRIDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY.

WE GLEAN the following story from the *Delhi Gazette*:

"The Settlement Officer of Etawah, Mr. C. H. T. Crosthwaite, in his official report on the rent rates for assessing Pergunna Bidhoona of that district, shows us a melancholy instance of how we grind to the dust.

Glancing at the former tenures, he gives this history of the Ruru Raj or Chiefship. The tribe of Seyugur Rajpoots under their leaders, a Raja, a Rai, and a Rawut, crossed the Jumna some six centuries ago and acquired possession of a great portion of the present district of Etawah. The Raja settled at Ruru, a village on the right bank of the Puraha, between it and the Ahneya river. The last Raja in the direct line was Kushul Singh, who died about fifteen years prior to the cession (1803), leaving several widows, a nephew, Himunchul Singh, in the third decent from his brother Sumeir Singh, and a bastard named Ghunsham Singh by a woman who was not of the Seyugur tribe but an Aheeria or cowherd.

The first settlement made by us was with the nephew, Himunchul Singh. The second was with the Ranee Bhudoim widow of the Raja Kushul, Singh, in consequence apparently of the absence of Himunchul Singh. The third, notwithstanding the application of Himunchul Singh, was also made with the Ranee. So was the fourth.

During the fourth settlement, Himunchul Singh brought a suit in the Provincial Court of Bareilly against the Ranee Bhudoim, and one Chundun Singh of Sahar, who appears to have been her manager. Himunchul Singh rested his claim on, his alleged adoption by the Ranee. The Court, holding that the adoption was not proved, dismissed his claim on the 12th of April, 1813.

He appealed to the Sudder Court, which tribunal in August, 1817—let the dates be well marked in passing; the misery of the law's delays will be found piled up here mountains high—confirmed the first decree, but also declared Ghunsham Singh the true heir, and ordered him to be put in possession.

Accordingly the fifth settlement was made with Ghunsham Singh.

Meanwhile Himunchul Singh took the case to England. In January, 1834, twenty-one years, or nearly a whole generation after the original decree, the Privy Council upheld the decision of the Sudder Court, dismissing the claim of Himunchul Singh, but annulled the part of it which put Ghunsham Singh in possession.

The estate was thus left without an owner! It was placed under direct management and summarily assessed.

At the last settlement Mr. Gubbins admitted the title of the village communities, i. e, of the village zamindars, to 31 villages of the Raj bearing a revenue of Rs. 32,000; while 30 villages, assessed at Rs. 21,000, to which no better claim was made out, were declared the property of the Raja of Ruru. These last, it was recommended by Mr. Gubbins, should be settled with Himunchul Singh as the lineal descendant of the old Rajas. That unfortunate person had meanwhile been called upon to pay the costs of the Privy Council appeal, and his very house had been pulled down and the materials sold. He did not live to get the advantage of the new turn of affairs. But his heir, Futteh Singh was inducted in the property, which was under the Board's orders farmed out for fifteen years during his minority.

In 1857, Futteh Singh took part against us, as the people say he was unable to prevent his dependants from acting with the rebels. He died before he was brought to trial. But his property was confiscated, and his son who is recognized as the Chief of the Seyugurs, has been allowed to retain the family village of Ruru Kalan, with three small neighbouring estates. The bulk of the property has been distributed to various "loyal subjects."

Mr. Crosthwaite next notices two other large taluqas or properties, and then in a manly and generous strain observes as follows—

"It is curious and not satisfactory to remark that the only one of these three taluqdars who had a really just title, the Raja Ruru, is the one whose property has been least preserved. It is of course obvious to say that Futteh Sing's rebellion was the chief cause of the ruin. But Futteh Singh was son of Himunchul Singh, and a quarter of a century of litigation, such as Himunchul Singh underwent, coming to so impotent a conclusion cannot have tended to increase the loyalty of the family. I shall be glad if any favour could be shown to the present Raja, who seems a well disposed lad."

On this the Commissioner, Mr. G. M. Ricketts, delivers himself thus—"I pass by the history of the principal families with the remark that they show the usual downfall—gradual sometimes, sometimes sudden—that is to be observed elsewhere. We have dismembered large estates, reducing them to masses of unimportant units in which there is no cohesion. The most deserving of all, the Ruru Raja, Mr Crosthwaite observes, has been more wiped out than any of the others. The representative of this house he describes as a well-disposed lad. *But there is no opening for his services under our system! he will hope in vain for employment worthy of his rank, and his aspirations, and he will probably mature, as number of others have done, in to a sulky, ill-educated sensual boor, a rebel at heart, and perhaps in fact when an opportunity occurs.*"

We leave our rulers to draw the moral of this story.

WE ARE glad to observe that the Lieutenant-Governor has come forward with the munificent grant of Rs. 5,000 in aid of Father Lafont's proposed Spectroscopic Observatory. The grant is made on the following conditions:—

1. That Father Lafont will agree to train one or more of the Professors of the College to carry on the work in the event of his sickness or absence.
2. That the observations taken will be duly published in the *Journal of the Asiatic Society* and the *Memorie della Societa des Spectroscopiti Italaini*.
3. That a sum of Rs. 5,000 be realised by private subscriptions before 31st March 1875.
4. That, in the event of the observations being discontinued for a period of six consecutive months, the instruments shall become the property of Government.

The Asiatic Society we learn has voted Rs. 500 in aid of the project.

THE PARIS FIGARO reports a very interesting and curious case of transfusion of blood:

"A German banker had shown such signs of exhaustion that his medical adviser arrived at the conviction that transfusion of blood was the only means capable of restoring health to the patient. But neither relatives, nor friends, nor neighbours were willing to lend themselves to that sometimes dangerous operation. The doctor then decided to take blood from a bull which belonged to his patient. On the day fixed for the operation the patient showed himself very much excited and agitated; the exhaustion of his body was so great, and his nerves were so much shattered, that the doctor, fearing lest the experiment might act strongly on his fancy, almost inclined towards a postponement of the operation. Contrary motives prevailed, however; but the blood was no sooner injected into the veins of the unhappy sufferer than he began to give positive signs of mental aberration, uttering the most disconnected and strange things. On the following morning he arose a complete madman, moving his head uninterruptedly to and fro like a bull, and threatening to strike with his head the chest of all persons who came near him. At the same time he cried loudly for grass and hay to be given to him. His state of madness being no longer doubtful, he was at once removed to an asylum where, having been examined several times, he was declared to be incurable. His death was reported after eight days of the most furious madness, during which it was a matter of very great difficulty to restrain him within bounds. It has happened before this that novels and comedies have put forward men whose temper and constitution were notably altered by a transfusion of blood from other persons; but this seems to be the first real case ending so strangely, and at the same time so fatally."

BABU PROSUNNA CUMAR ROY obtained Honors in the following subjects when he recently took his B. A. degree in the University of London:—Logic and Mental Philosophy and Geology.

THE HYDERABAD Report gives the income of the dominions of the Nizam in 1873-74 at Rs. 78,25,098 and the expenditure at Rs. 60,39,798, showing a surplus of Rs. 17,85,300. Land revenue in the year contributed Rs. 53,66,311; excise on spirits and drugs Rs. 10,12,727; law and justice Rs. 4,23,317; salt Rs. 3,06,320. The civil charges in the year were Rs. 24,16,180; military expenses Rs. 27,93,107; public works ordinary Rs. 7,87,047. and only Rs. 43,515 were expended on the State Railway.

SATURDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY.

WE ARE requested to mention that Father Lafont's next lecture "on Electrical machines" is postponed to Thursday the 11th March.

THERE IS a rumour afloat that the Government proposes to give the District Registrarship of Calcutta on the retirement of Babu Chundermohun Chatterjea to a European. We can hardly credit this, for we believe that all the officers, who have held the office of Registrar-General, have been of opinion that in consideration of the majority of the registrations in Calcutta being executed by natives, and in not a few cases by zenana ladies, the District Registrar of this town ought to be a native. We do not care whom the Government may select, so long as the officer be a native of some position in Calcutta society.

PROFESSOR MINAYEFF, a Russian traveller, whose arrival in this country we announced some time ago, lately visited the Sanscrit *toles* in Nuddea. He also visited the Sanscrit College of Calcutta and the Sanscrit *tole* founded by the Raja Joteendro Mohun Tagore with the munificient bequest of his uncle the late Hon'ble Prosunno Coomar Tagore C. S. I. at Mulajore.

WE HAVE received the mortuary returns of Calcutta for two weeks, ending on the 6th and 13th February respectively. The total number of deaths in the first week was 275, and in the second week 247. The number of deaths from small-pox was 24 and cholera 20 in the first week and 18 and 13 respectively in the second week.

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MESSRS FINLAY MUIR & Co. have instituted a criminal action against the *Indian Statesman* for defamation.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :

London, 20th February.—The Indian Officers' Compensation Committee met yesterday. An early termination of its labours is expected. In the House of Commons Dr. Kenealy, has announced a motion relative to the Tichborne prosecution. Lord George Hamilton, replying to Mr. Dalrymple, said that no despatch had yet been received concerning the leave rules of the Indian Uncovenanted Civil Servants ; but replying to a telegram from the India Office, the Indian Government had announced a despatch on this subject by the next mail. The Emperor of Germany is indisposed. There are rumours in Berlin that Prince Bismarck contemplates retiring shortly.

London, 25th February.—A diplomatic difficulty has arisen between Turkey and Spain owing to the latter having notified to Roumania the accession of Alfonso to the Spanish Throne.

Paris, 24th February.—Notwithstanding the vigorous opposition of the Legitimists and Bonapartists, the Assembly rejected all the amendments on the Senate Bill, and finally passed by 448 against 241 votes the bill as framed and proposed on the 21st instant.

Rome 22nd February.—The Pope has issued a Bill to the German Bishops which forbids the acceptance of benefices from the State under pain of excommunication.

BELVEDERE presented a lively scene this afternoon. About 100 native gentlemen were present at the Reception announced in our last, who were graciously received by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. At night His Honor received His Highness the Maharaja Holkar at an Evening Party.

WE HAVE received a letter from a correspondent giving particulars of a wonderful cure effected by Babu Abinash Chunder Banerjee. The writer Babu Ramchunder Mondul thus describes the disease :

"My son-in-law a boy of more than nineteen years of age was suffering from a fit for nearly a month and a half. The attacks of the malady, which came at intervals, were sudden and the symptoms alarming. The fits made the patient fall down upon the ground and lose his senses, attended with awful contortions of the body. He was placed under the treatment of Dr. Juggobundo Bose and Assistant Surgeon Baboo Gobin Chunder Chatterjee, who for nearly the whole period of the boy's sufferings administered remedies, which proved ineffectual."

Babu Abinash Chunder Banerjee was then called in, and he has cured the disease after a short and summary process, which we have neither time nor space to describe. The reader may recognize the Babu as the curer of snake-bite. He is a clerk in the Agra Bank.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Viceroy has been gracious enough to give the following testimonial through his Military Secretary to Professor Moula Bux :

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, CALCUTTA.
25th February.

Lord Northbrook had an opportunity of hearing Mowla Bux sing and play on the Vina and Jaltaranga at the house of Rajah Joteendro Mohun Tagore, on the 1st instant. The Viceroy was much pleased with the refinements and execution displayed by the Professor in his performances of Indian Music.—W. Earle, *Colonel.*

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receip of the following publications and periodical :—1. Report of the Sanitary Commissioner for Benga for 1873. 2. Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1873-74. 3. Report on the Financial Results of the Excise Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1873-74. 4. Report on the Administration of the Customs Department in the Bengal Presidency for 1873-74. 5. The Elements of the Psychology of Cognition : By Robert Jardine, B. D. and Prinipal of the General Assembly's Institution, Calcutta. 6. Comparative Table showing the number of candidates sent from each School and College to the Entrance and First Arts Examinations in the Calcutta University in 1874, and results. 7. Mookerjee's Magazine for January 1875—the Nana, a Military Drama.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1875.

THE FUNERAL OF THE FAMINE.

THE grim monster, which threatened to decimate the country in 1874, died in September last, and last Saturday's *Gazette of India* contains an account of its funeral. The war which the Government waged with it was sad and fearful, but the results most triumphant and gratifying. It is not necessary for us to recount the history of the campaign—we kept the reader informed of the details as each stage of the struggle developed itself. Suffice it to say that it has found a worthy chronicler in Sir Richard Temple. The story of the Famine of 1874 is told in his best style by this veteran Knight of the Pen. The interest of the narrative is concentrated in the last chapter. With the limited space at our disposal we can make room for only a few extracts. Sir Richard thus begins this chapter :

"The foregoing narrative is intended to be a bare statement of the facts as they occurred, without any description of the scenes or situations which presented themselves during the course of these events, and without any discussion of the considerations which such events suggest. In this chapter I shall endeavour very briefly to describe some of the scenes and situations, and to discuss some of the considerations, relating to the circumstances which have been narrated.

It will be evident to the reader that during the actual occurrence of such events there must have been many striking scenes and situations. It might even be feared that many sights, sad, schocking, terrible, must have been seen. The mere notion of swift destruction sweeping over many thousands of square miles of country, highly cultivated to the last rood of ground, and waving with crops destined never to ripen—the very name of utter and widespread famine, affecting several millions of the people,—must rouse in our minds the thought of horrors indescribable. The story of such things is known to every student of Indian annals. The tradition of such calamities endures with vivid force among the people of India.

Happily, the famine of 1874 was for the most part free from circumstances of this grave character. If such things occurred at all, their occurrence was in a mitigated form, and to a limited extent. It may be that some horrors have happened of which the accounts are too imperfect and uncertain to command credence, or of which we have never heard and shall never hear. Nevertheless there must unavoidably have been very much of misery to stir the depth of human sympathy. Visiting authorities have found many families of many villages in destitution near to starvation. Relief administrators inspecting crowds of poor have seen the affecting spectacle of women and little children in the last stage of emaciation. Medical examiners scrutinizing the field hospitals, the poor-houses, the relief centres, have made professional reports of physical depression in whole classes. Here and there corpses of hunger-stricken persons have been found, and sometimes the reports of deaths from famine have been authenticated. All these things are, indeed, sad to be recalled ; but much worse things even than these might have happened, which it is unnecessary to imagine. The object of the operations undertaken by Government, of the administrative efforts made, of the financial cost incurred, was to prevent these things from happening so far as might be humanly possible. It will be for others to judge how far that object was attained."

The following is a graphic picture of transport of food :

"The banks of the Ganges in Behar, which formed the great base of our transport operations, presented scenes of much animation. On the south bank temporary branches or sidings from the main railway line were constructed on to the very ridge of the high river-bank, where long sheds were erected for sheltering the bags of rice piled up in long series of heaps. Wooden sheds were constructed, stretching down the steep bank, so that the bags might shoot straight from the goods, platform to the deck of the steamers lying in the stream. At that spring season violent winds from the west (hot as furnace blasts) blow over the broad river-bed (several miles in average breadth) from morning to evening, filling the air with dusty haze and obstructing navigation for all vessels save those propelled by steam. From eventide the winds subside until the morning. But navigation in the shifting and tortuous channels was impossible during the dark hours, so the work had to be done either by steamers laden together with their barges (called "flats"), or else by steamers towing country craft. It was interesting to see a steamer tugging against wind and stream a far-stretching string of, perhaps, twenty country boats. On the other side, the steamers would meet the Durbhunga railway, which had been carried across the low sands to the water's edge, the steam vessel lying almost alongside of the railway engine. As the river rose gradually, the waters encroaching on the sands would drive back the railway line a few yards day by day.

On the north bank the main depots could be descried from afar by the clouds of ascending dust. Day and night there was a ceaseless creaking and rolling of carts, incoming empty and outgoing laden. The great length of sheds which had been erected was often insufficient for the bags that arrived which were then heaped into pyramids from 60 to 80 feet high.

The lines of the carts extended continuously over many miles. A traveller might traverse say 20 miles of country and meet with uninterrupted strings of the carts throughout the whole distance. Every one of the streams (which though very low were still running clear in that region) was blocked by cartmen stopping to water their cattle. Every one of the roadside mango groves, which abound in that quarter, was crowded with men and animals packed close together for temporary repose and shade. At evening the darkness of the groves would be lit up by the cooking fires. The roadways were cut by the cart wheels into ruts from 2 to 3 feet deep (called "leeks"). The carts could not move unless they followed the ruts. Fortunately most of the carts were of an uniform build. But whenever carts of a different build came into the field, there actually arose questions of cart gauge, broad and narrow, and the transport department would be obliged to carve out fresh roadways wherein the carts of a particular breadth might work out their own ruts.

More interesting still, perhaps, was the assembling and mustering of the many contingents of carts in the country around Durbhunga and Mudhobunnee during February 1874. The rough tracks and lanes form a network of communication in that region. Every line was covered by the bands of carts each several thousand strong, converging from every direction. The troops of men with their carriage gathered with alacrity at central stations. All seemed to understand the vital moment of the enterprise on which they were entering. At first the groves and tanks of the central stations afforded shade and water even for these masses. But soon these places became choked with the dust from the arid, friable soil trodden by countless feet. The foliage of the trees became encrusted and brown with layers of dust ; the tanks would be drained to their dregs of fetid mud ; the air was thick with particles of earth flying in the fervid blasts of the summer wind. Throughout the twenty-four hours of the day the business had to be prosecuted, and order had to be maintained among the masses of men, animals, and carts, whether at rest or in motion. Side by side with this were the field hospitals for the people and for the beasts—for the sun-stricken, the foot-sore, the over-fatigued, the exhausted, the ailing, and the sick. During the hottest hours of the day European officers on horseback were recovering stragglers, urging on the backward and encouraging the forward.

The appearance of the cattle, both for draught and burden, was in the beginning splendid. For them the drought, which destroyed the ear of the rice plant, had spared the stubble for fodder. The sap and strength of the plant had remained in the stem ; so that the stubble fodder was more than ordinarily nourishing. This accounted for the excellent condition of the cattle. Certainly sleeker, sturdier beasts could hardly be seen. A very few weeks of transport service changed all this. But though they lost flesh and appearance, they showed muscle and power to the end.

Towards the close of the hot weather, when the lowering clouds gave warning of the downpour which would damage all grain it might find exposed, the haste and hurry to secure the rice bags in the granaries became intense. At some of the depots, which were latest filled, streams of laden carts camels mules, and ponies, would pour in much faster than the loads could be disposed of under cover. In the still heat of the heavy air, with all the signs of quick-coming rain storms the efforts made by the people to house the grain produced an almost wild excitement."

As regards the Famine policy Sir Richard observes :

"I now advert to some of the considerations relating to the famine of 1874. Whether the preservation of the people from the destructive consequences of that calamity should be undertaken by the State was an imperial question beyond the power of the local Government of Bengal to decide. The Government of India determined from the beginning that this should be undertaken with every effort and at any sacrifice, in order to avoid risk with a reasonable degree of certainty, and to secure success so far as human means might avail. It was under this view and upon this understanding that the scheme of operations was conceived and worked out in all its details. Much of course may have been done amiss in the management of such multifarious affairs. As regards the means adopted and the steps taken for the proposed end, it is for others, and not for me, to judge whether any essential mistakes have been made in the way of doing either too little or too much, of failing below, or of going beyond, the requirements of the case on the fundamental principles which had been laid down for our guidance. But if any mistakes have been made in conducting the operations, then it will perhaps be remembered that many (though not all) of the parts of the undertaking had an unprecedented character. Many things were to be accomplished the like of which had never been attempted before. However great may have been the knowledge and practice of the many persons of all classes engaged in this service, still no person could possibly have had the actual experience needed in order to foresee the issue or the entire effect of the measures which had to be adopted."

The remarks on the growth of population and production of food are very interesting, but we have neither time nor space to notice them in this issue.

Sir Richard thus notes the lessons of the Famine of 1874 :

"In respect to the relations between the people on the one hand and the Government and its servants on the other, if there is any alteration produced it is for the better. The people cannot have witnessed unmoved the really vast preparations made by the British Government and the unflagging devotions of the relief officers of all grades. I am convinced that the people of all classes, from the highest to the humblest, regard with the utmost gratitude the policy and proceedings of Government on this occasion. They look back with extreme sensibility to the mortal peril which was impended over them. Under Providence they attribute to Government their preservation from that peril. The impression left on their minds is profound, and will prove enduring. The sentiment of lively gratitude is not confined to the lately distressed districts, but pervades all the provinces under the Government of Bengal. The native press, the conversation of the people of all ranks, the addresses and representations constantly tendered to Government, teem and abound with proofs of this. From their bearing and conduct on this memorable occasion, all classes of the people, the zemindar, the landholder, the merchant, the trader, the ryot, the husbandman, the artisan, the labourers, the helpless poor, have risen in our estimation and I regard. In respect to the officers of Government, their knowledge of the state of the people must have been greatly enlarged by the experience of the relief work, and they cannot but feel a more vivid interest than ever in the welfare of the people whose lives they have been instrumental in saving.

Respecting any supposed evil legacies of the famine, I hope that they are but few. Certainly a great expense have been incurred, about five and three-quarter millions sterling. This is an evil which cannot be overlooked or forgotten. It may be thought that a precedent has been established, which, whether for good or not, still is in either case most important. If any such precedent is thus established, I believe it will be for good, though I need not discuss its bearing here. Otherwise no evil legacy is perceptible. The famine relief may have not made the people better, but it has left them at least as well, morally and physically, as it found them. Some questions have been made prominent, the discussion of which may conduce to the public benefit hereafter. The insight of Government and its officers into the condition of people and resources of the country has been improved. Public works for the prevention of famine in future have been designed. Another bond has been added to those bonds which unite the Government and its subjects. Above all, there is the moral effect of the elevated example which has been set by Government before the people at large.

One momentous lesson the famine has left behind it for our learning. That lesson teaches us the necessity of strenuous perseverance in the course of material improvement on which the Government has already so beneficially and successfully embarked. It is only by such improvement that the country can be permanently protected from famine,

and the necessity be avoided of adopting such extraordinary and costly remedies like those which have been described.

On a retrospect of the prevention of the famine, we cannot escape the question as to how the adoption of such extreme preventive measures on the part of Government in the future can be obviated. The calamity of 1874 is averted, the people are preserved in their ordinary condition, these fine districts are to pass on the 1875 with no unfavorable traces of the threatened destruction of 1874. But this has been effected at a very heavy financial cost to the State. During the period of safety there may be a disposition to forget that famine may happen again; still this contingency ought never to be absent from our reflections. Calamities of such awful magnitude as that which recently hung over these provinces are rare, and have been manifested at long intervals of time. We may hope that these provinces may under Providence, long be spared such a visitation in the future. But at the worst, we must meet famine as we should meet war."

The Resolution of the Governor General in Council on the Report of the Lieutenant Governor is a calm and discriminating review of the operations of Government. His Excellency in Council thus sums up:

"The measures that have been taken have not only prevented the extensive mortality which [must] otherwise have occurred, but the general productive power of the country has not been allowed to deteriorate, and there is no reason to believe that any demoralization has followed from the relief operations. The strongest assurances of the gratitude of the people have been received, and it may confidently be expected that the assistance which has been given by the State during a time of calamity will be long remembered and appreciated, not only on the scene of the distress, but throughout the whole of Her Majesty's Indian Empire.

The cost of the relief operations cannot as yet be accurately stated; But it may safely be assumed that the total net cost will not exceed the sum of £6,500,000, which was the estimate given in the Budget for the current year."

His Excellency in Council admits that the forecaste of the Famine was not quite accurate, and thus accounts for the difference between the forecast and actual fact:

"The anticipation of the effects of the scarcity was found to be somewhat greater than the reality from two causes. The stock of food in the hands of the people turned out to be larger than was anticipated; and sufficient allowance was not made for the extraordinary exertions which were used by the cultivators to grow a greater quantity than usual of the grain crops which ripen in the autumn. It was impossible to reckon beforehand upon either of these circumstances; but the experience that has now been gained shows, *first*, that where a scarcity follows a fair season, considerable supplies of food will probably be in the possession of the people, and, therefore, sufficient time may be reckoned upon for the purpose of organizing the relief which may ultimately be required; and *secondly*, that the cultivators of the soil in India are able and willing to make considerable alterations in their agriculture for the sake of increasing the food-supply at the earliest possible moment, by which means the period over which the scarcity would otherwise extend is considerably shortened. The outturn of the autumn crops of 1874 was further increased by the unusual quantity of rain that fell early in the season."

His Excellency comes to the conclusion, which we ventured to form from the beginning of the scarcity, that one year's failure of crops in the proportions reported, would cause a deficiency of food supply for two months. This conclusion was much ridiculed at the time, but we have much pleasure in quoting the highest authority in India in support of it. His Excellency in Council observes: "it is unlikely that in the event of any failure of crops which is not prolonged for more than one year Government can have to supply a larger quantity of food than would be sufficient to support for about two months the whole population of the area most severely visited."

The food supplies provided for to meet the Famine of last year resulted in an excess of 100,000 tons of rice, which the Governor General in Council thus notices:

"It will be seen from Sir Richard Temple's Minute that a balance of about 100,000tons of rice remained after the relief operations had been concluded. To this extent the measures taken have been in excess of the requirements of the case. The responsibility for this excess rests entirely with the Government of India. Having to deal with so vast a population, whose support depended upon many uncertain contingencies, it would have been imprudent not to have been prepared to meet larger demands than those which were actually made upon the Government. If a substantial reserve had not been provided, the success of the relief operations would properly have been attributed rather to good fortune than to foresight. The experience of last year shows the necessity of such a reserve. In the beginning of September 1874 very great apprehensions were felt that the scarcity would be prolonged. This was only averted by a fall of rain at the very last moment when it could have been of use to allow the winter crops to be sown; and, if the rain had not then fallen, the rice in reserve would have been urgently required. It must not be forgotten that on previous occasions it has occurred that a second year of drought has followed the first."

His Excellency in Council pays the following graceful tribute of praise to Sir Richard Temple:

"The Government of India desire, in conclusion, to convey to Sir Richard Temple their recognitions of the distinguished services which he has rendered to people of Bengal and Behar during the time of difficulty through which the Province has passed. As a member of the Council of the Governor General, Sir Richard Temple was from the first intimately associated with the policy adopted by the Government of India in respect to the scarcity. He took a prominent part in carrying that policy into effect under Sir George Campbell's administration; and, since he assumed the Office of Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in April last, he has unremittingly devoted himself to the personal direction and superintendence of the relief operations, which owe their complete success mainly to his exertions."

And we must add that praise is above all due to His Excellency the Viceroy. His Excellency shewed a judgment, foresight, energy, self-sacrifice, and humanity, which will always be cherished in grateful recollection by the people, and which have earned for him the title of "Father of the Poor." His Lordship has added a chaplet of glory to the crown of England, which will shine with undying lustre.

THE FAMINE IN THE N. W. P.

As in Bengal so in the North Western Provinces, the attention of Government in 1873-74 was occupied chiefly with the measures to relieve distress arising from the dearth and scarcity of that year. It was never, indeed, apprehended that the distress arising from scarcity would assume there the proportions which it assumed in Bengal, but it was evident almost from the first that Government would be called upon to take measures for the relief of the poorer classes in some parts of the province. The rains of 1873 began in the North Western Provinces more than a fortnight later than usual, were very deficient in quantity, and ended rather earlier than usual. At their close it was reported, especially from the eastern and sub-Himalayan districts, that the ponds and tanks were nearly empty, and this fact, added to the early cessation of the rains and the want of subsequent showers, indicated the probability of an extensive failure of the rice crop, and that the consequence of this, wherever rice is the main crop, would be scarcity and distress. As the cold season advanced, it gradually became evident that the districts in which State relief would be necessary were divided into two classes: *first*, those in the east and north-east of the provinces (the sub-Himalyan tracts of Basti and Gorakhpur and the East of Ghazipur), which in climate and agricultural conditions more or less resembled the western districts of Bengal; and *second*, the Bundelkhand district in the south—Banda, Hamirpur, Jhansi, and Lalitpur—with the southern portion of Mirzapur, all of which had suffered from a succession of bad years, and where the cultivators and landowners are in a state of chronic distress. In all these tracts the pressure of scarcity began to make itself felt at about the same time. Relief works, for which provision had already been made, were opened in most districts during January and in the beginning of February. The Christmas rains always make the difference between a good and a poor harvest; and this year, the ground having been less soaked by the rains than usual, the harvest would have been exceptionally poor. To add to the misfortune of the province, a frost such as had not been known for years set in about the middle of January and continued for some days; it did not affect the hardy wheat and barley, but the arhar, peas, and other more delicate crops were completely burnt up by it. At length in the first week of February the long delayed rain fell in moderately heavy showers, and the heavy calamity which seemed to be impending was averted. Though too late to do all the good which it might have done had it fallen at the usual time, it was of incalculable benefit, and through its influence a year of high prices was substituted for a year of scarcity. This estimate of the situation formed by Government in March was confirmed by the event in all but one particular. It was thought probable that the distress would last till the autumn crops (especially the rice) were ripe, and that the relief works would have to be kept open till then. The unexpected improvement in the spring harvest, however, diminished the distress considerably. He decided that it was not advisable to close the works, but that efforts should be made to make the relief more distasteful by exacting a larger tale of work, and that the wages should be reduced to the minimum which would provide subsistence for the laborers. At this time Sir John Strachey took charge of Government, and he was determined in the views he took. He was of opinion that the distress in the afflicted tracts had been much exaggerated and that the scale of relief was much too large. The repressive measures which Sir John took had the effect of thinning the relief centres. When the wages were cut down to a mere subsistence allowance, when a full day's labor was insisted on, and when the liberty of living at their homes was threatened, these immense crowds melted away as rapidly as they had collected, and it was found that there was hardly any one who really stood in need of relief. The following is an approximate statement of expenditure incurred in meeting the scarcity in the North Western Provinces in 1873-74:

	Relief works and other expenditure chargeable to the State.	Expenditure on poorhouses, &c., met from the charitable relief fund.
	Rs.	Rs.
Gorakhpur, ...	3,40,195	10,894
Basti, ...	4,28,557	9,637
Ghazipur, ...	13,116	6,900
Mirzapur, ...	46,239	...
Banda, ...	13,249	6,026
Hamirpur, ...	9,145	6,221
Jalaun, ...	6,893	...
Jhansi, ...	925	295
Total ..	8,58,319	37,973

The relief works were intended for the support of the able-bodied poor. The North-West Government adhered to the rule laid down in the famine of 1868, that the duty of Government is to provide work for those who can and will work, but that the relief of those who are unable to work is a matter which devolves properly on private charity, in which the State should assist, but should not bear the whole burden. We do not think that this is a sound principle, for it comes to this that if private charity is restricted then the poor people must starve to death. It was this inhuman policy, which was thrust upon Sir Cecil Beadon in 1866, and which led to the sad catastrophe in Orissa. We were then loud in condemning Sir Cecil Beadon, but now that the excitement is over we must confess that it was not his short-sightedness but the churlishness of the Supreme Government, which produced the unfortunate crisis in Orissa. We fear the same result would have followed in the North West if Heaven had not favored it. As Sir John Strachey himself says, "the favorable turn taken after the rains of February reduced the task of the relief committee, and the demand for assistance made upon them, far below the original expectations." But for that favorable turn, who knows how things would have ended in the North Western Provinces, if Sir John Strachey's iron rule had been rigidly enforced.

LORD SALISBURY AT MANCHESTER.

INDIAN administration was the theme of a recent address from the Marquis of Salisbury at Manchester. The Manchester Chamber of Commerce took advantage of his Lordship's visit to the Cottonopolis, and presented him an address. The Chamber produced its own evidence as to the interest it took in India by eulogizing the successful efforts of the Indian Government to meet the late Famine in Bengal. It said that "we cannot doubt that the people of this country will unite with their Indian fellow-subjects in testifying to the Government, both at home and in Calcutta, their high appreciation of the zeal and ability displayed in lessening to the utmost extent the existence and continuance of human suffering." The Chamber might have added that the best proof of the interest which Manchester took in the welfare of India was that it would not move to subscribe a shilling to the Bengal Famine Relief Fund until it was goaded as it were by the reproaches from the leading organs of English opinion. Adverting to this subject Lord Salisbury paid some graceful compliments to the officers of the Indian Government. His Lordship said:

"I thoroughly agree with you that this is a matter of deep congratulation for Englishmen; for never were English talents of government more splendidly displayed than they were in meeting this dreadful crisis. (Cheers.) Lord Northbrook of course deserves the first praise, but under him men like Sir George Campbell and Sir Richard Temple displayed abilities of which this country may well be proud, and every man throughout the official hierarchy, and many that were without it who were brought in suddenly and without notice

to take their part in duties for which they never were prepared, manifested on that trying occasion all those qualities for which in other dangers our race has become so famous, and which were on this occasion displayed, not as formerly, for the destruction, but for the saving of human life. There is nothing to my mind more marvellous than the qualities which are displayed by our countrymen in the East. You have not picked your men with any singular care. You might almost without exaggeration say that you take educated Englishmen at random, and place them in positions of high command, and you find that when the emergency comes nine out of ten, or a far larger proportion—men in whom at home you would have seen no peculiar or conspicuous abilities—will display those splendid qualifications of courage, of calmness, of resource, and of discernment which have justly enabled Englishmen to claim for themselves the title of an Imperial race. (Cheers.) This natural power of command we have vindicated for ourselves by a uniform display of command of our countrymen in the East, and I do not think that a more brilliant instance of their exhibition has been yet written in the pages of history than that which has been recorded by the Famine in Bengal. (Cheers.) Doubtless, if you ever look at the Indian papers, you have heard suggestions from men who took no part in these exertions that because the crisis had been successfully overcome, therefore its dangers had never existed. I have no doubt that you are sufficiently well-informed to have treated these suggestions with contempt. Lord Northbrook has himself been lately over all the districts that were recently distressed, and he has satisfied himself by close personal scrutiny that the danger was very frightful, and that, but for the enormous efforts which the British Government has made, millions of lives would have been sacrificed. (Hear, hear.)"

We endorse every word of the above. We may add that Lord Salisbury himself deserves no mean praise for taking a lively interest in the progress of the measures of the Indian Government and cordially seconding them.

The Chamber then referred to remedial measures for the future, and Lord Salisbury thus noticed this part of the subject:

"You speak of the necessity of encouraging projects of irrigation and projects of communication. It has been so old and commonplace a matter, at least here, to support a policy for the encouragement of works of this kind that it is not necessary I should tell a twice-told tale by recounting their advantages to you. But what, perhaps, it may be desirable that I should do is to point out that, as time has gone on and our experience has increased, our estimate of the relative value of these two means of mitigating distress and promoting prosperity has very much changed. Some eight or ten years ago the belief in irrigation was universal and boundless. Partly led thereto by the enthusiastic representations of some gentlemen of great ability who had made themselves its advocates, we had in this country conceived the idea that it was almost impossible to undertake any scheme of irrigation which should not succeed, and that any expenditure of money on works of that kind was justifiable and wise. That was my own belief eight years ago, but I see that belief is very much shaken in the mind of Lord Northbrook and of the Councillors who surround him; and though, of course, my own opportunities for observation are much smaller than his, still my study of the subject has led me to the same convictions. I believe that the financial future of India depends upon the due development of their railways. (Cheers.) Of course, like all other operations in a country which is not rich, it must be done with caution. You must not overburden your capital account. But still we have no such financial difficulties to fear as have attended us in the matter of irrigation. There is a popular notion that railways in India have not paid at all, or paid exceedingly badly, and as a financial fact there is no doubt that we have to pay a guaranteed interest of some £1,500,000 or £1700,000 every year to make up the deficiency. I believe that result is in a great measure due to the mistakes which attended the original construction of the railways. It was a new matter; many blunders were made, and, though many men gave all their earnestness and all their ability to the task, still it was not to be hoped that they should escape from every kind of error; and to show how much of the comparative failure of railways is due to accidental causes I will mention just one fact which I had brought out by calculations made the other day. The money for all these railways in India was raised by a guaranteed interest at 5 per cent. I required what the difference would have been if, instead of raising the money by guaranteed interest the Indian Government had raised the money by borrowing from time to time, as its credit stood at the time in the open market I found that we should have saved the payment of £600,000 a year by simply altering the form of our financial action. If, instead of adopting the system of guarantees, we had adopted the more orderly system of borrowing money as we wanted it, we should have saved that enormous sum. At the present rate of interest that represents a capital of £15,000,000, and my impression is that that £15,000,000 would go very far to supply all the railways which India now wants. At all events it would supply a very large number of them. So that you see the difficulty about our railways has been to a great extent accidental, and that we may pursue that policy with more confidence than the figures which appear on the surface of our financial accounts may lead you to entertain."

The extract is long, but it deserves perusal. It gives in a succinct form the present views of Government on the subjects of Irrigation and Railway. They have been formed by Lord Northbrook after a patient and careful study, and it is gratifying to observe that Lord Salisbury has given his adhesion to them.

Lord Salisbury very deftly answered the Chamber's appeal for the repeal or remission of the import duties. His Lordship is evidently opposed to the abolition of the duties, but it is patent that the pressure upon him has been great. We are surprised that a statesman of his position and strength of mind should have coquetted with Manchester. He gave utterance to sentiments, which were clearly opposed to those he had previously expressed to a Manchester deputation on the same subject. He observed:

"It is not merely the interest of the consumers—a much more important interest than the interest of the producers, for your consumers are 250 millions of people, and your producers are much fewer than that; but in India there is a further consideration. You have the remarkable phenomenon to which I begged, Sir, to call your attention on a previous occasion. You have the cotton grown upon the spot. You have the consumers buying the manufactured article on the spot. You have cheap and abundant labour, and labour that in respect of delicateness and softness surpasses anything that you can obtain in this country. And you have a very large supply of coal right under the feet of the people in that country. Yet how is it that manufactories are not springing up with rapidity? One thing is wanted; that one thing is capital. (Hear.) Capital will go, as we well know to any part of the world. It will face any difficulties and dangers in seeking employment. But there is one thing which frightens it back, and that is the great uncertainty as to the conditions under which it is to be employed.

This is not the whole truth about the matter. In the first place the cotton produced in India is not the best material; in the second place, although labor is cheap, skilled labor is rare; in the third place machinery has to be imported from England; in the fourth place all such machinery is subject to a heavy import duty. Thus things are not equal between India and England, and it cannot therefore be reasonably contended that the duty on cotton in India is protective in its operation. We are sorry that Lord Salisbury should have given expression to such an opinion as this: "everybody knows that a free-trade country like England cannot permanently maintain a duty of this kind." The tendency of His Lordship's speech was that the duty may not be repealed altogether, but it is sure to be reduced. His Lordship said:

"I don't think there would be any greater boon to the cotton industry than to place it upon a secure, sound, and certain footing, so that everybody might know exactly what he was about. (Cheers.) I confess I heartily sympathize with the phrase which I see in the address regretting that any undue encouragement should be given to men who are basing their hopes upon a protective duty. Undoubtedly that is very unjust; and if men are basing their hopes and extending their money in the hope that this duty will last I warn them that any evil consequences which may ensue will be upon their own heads. (Cheers.) But now you will say, What are the reasons why practical effect cannot be immediately given to these views? I am happy to say that since I had the pleasure of meeting the deputation, the Viceroy has appointed a Special Committee to consider the possibility of modifications in the tariff, and he has specially directed their attention to this subject of cotton, and has at the same time noted for their guidance the Indian Government is not to pursue a protective policy, and that any duties that are levied must be levied purely and simply as a matter of finance. He has thus laid down the lines upon which our policy proceeds. What the result of it may be I cannot at this moment say; and of course I can readily see the difficulties which lie in the way of an immediate alteration. The truth is, that you in this country have your minds thoroughly pre-occupied with the enormous successes which financial remissions have had in England, and there is a feeling which it is difficult for an Englishman to get rid of, that if we would only dispense with the duty the trade would pay us back for the sacrifice we made. Just as other nations have found to their cost that you cannot export English institutions, and that if you attempt it you will fail, so I fear it is equally true that you cannot export English maxims of finance. In order to apply the bold principles of our recent English finance you must have the English people to deal with. If you have community more torpidless enterprising, and less elastic, you must not expect that remissions of duty will have the effect upon the revenue to which we have been accustomed among ourselves. I have recently examined the effect that has come from modifications in the tariff during recent years. There have been many such modifications, but you may look over the list of trade exports or trade imports, or revenue returns, and you never will be able to discover any of the elastic rising of a trade after the reduction of duty which has been so great an encouragement to financiers in England. (Hear.) The thing does not exist, and we must not count upon it, and the claims upon the Indian Exchequer are very large. I have dealt with these public works which it is so necessary we should do. We must never forget that there is still a very large amount for us to perform before our task is done. We have many blots in our Indian financial system to remove. We have those internal Custom-houses, which do not depend entirely upon ourselves but to a great extent upon the help of our native allies, but which we are still deeply anxious, whenever we are able to do so to modify. (Cheers.) And then, gentlemen, there is in India the military question. Recent events in many parts of the world must have taught you that the Indian Government can never allow itself to be surprised. (Cheers.) Military vigilance is necessary in all parts of the world, but it is necessary in India in a very different sense than that in which it is necessary in England; and combined with the necessity for a stern and watchful state of military preparation is that constant necessity to provide for the health of your soldiers, which is a growing and imperious requirement pressed upon us, and one which we can least afford to disregard."

All this is perfectly true, and if true, how does Lord Salisbury reconcile the policy of lowering the duty to the financial exigencies of the State. We cannot but regret that His Lordship should have held out a hope to Manchester for a reduction of the duty. If the object of England is to govern India for the benefit of the case entrusted to its millions, we cannot conceive how Lord Salisbury could think of lowering the duty, the retention of which is necessary in the interest of those millions.

Lord Salisbury prefaced his address by observing that "Indian politics, I am happy to say, are different from all other politics in this, that in regard to them we know no distinction of party. A change of Government does not in itself mean a change of policy. Opposition on other matters does not mean opposition on Indian subjects. I was well satisfied with the policy of the Duke of Argyll during the time that I was in Opposition. I never expressed any dissatisfaction with it, and I am glad to be able to follow it out now that I have acceded to office." We cannot say whether this is absolutely an advantage. A good government is based on good knowledge, and party Government means a thorough education of the opposing parties in the affairs of the nation. Unfortunately such education is wanting in the political parties of England in the affairs of India, and it is this ignorance, which weakens the influence of Parliament upon the administration of this country. The result is that a small party, which takes interest in Indian matters from interested motives, not unfrequently moulds the policy of the Government towards its own purposes. This is notably the case with Manchester. The Cotton Lords rarely raise their voice in respect of the general administration of the country, but they are active in forwarding their own views in connection with India. In the present instance we see that the sole object of Manchester's address to Lord Salisbury was to wring a promise from him for the repeal of the import duties. The Indian Minister apparently felt the pressure too strong for him, but if there were opposing elements of party conflict he would not have surely given in so easily or contradicted himself so soon.

SEGREGATION OF RACES IN INDIA.

THIS subject forms the theme of a recent letter to the *Times* from its Calcutta Correspondent. He thinks that the segregation of the races in India in both military and civil administration would conduce to the political stability of the British Empire in the East as well as to the contentment of the diverse races and nationalities which inhabit this vast continent. *Divide et impera* seems to be his motto. He would follow it in taxation as well as in general administration. He observes, "it is manifestly unjust that the inhabitants of the Punjab should be taxed for the excavation of a canal in Behar, or *vice versa*." True, and the people of Bengal, against whom his javelin is chiefly directed, as we propose to shew presently, would gain by the recognition of this principle of decentralization. The new provinces have been, it is notorious, from the first living upon the fat of Bengal. It was the surplus of this much-abused province, which enabled Lord Dalhousie to annex new territories and maintain them. It is true that the resources of the new territories have since greatly increased, but still they can hardly pay their way after paying a fair quota of contribution to imperial expenditure. Sir Bartle Frere, whilst Member of Lord Canning's Government, proposed to carry out a policy of decentralization of finance thoroughly and justly, but it was apparent that this could not be done without greatly increasing the burdens upon the younger provinces, and so that policy was abandoned. None would rejoice more than we, if the individual liability of each province to meet its own wants and to contribute to imperial expenditure were recognized on a fair and equitable basis, but the Government sees the difficulties in its way, and so it does not make a move in that direction. It regards the empire as a grand unit, and applies the surplus of one province to meet the deficiency of another.

We come next to civil administration. The *Times'* correspondent says:

"It ought to be laid down that in each Province all that part of the judicial or the executive duties which are entrusted to the natives should, as far as possible, be discharged by the people of that part of India and by none other. We have conquered the Punjab, and thereby we have acquired a sort of right to rule over it. The Sikh acquiesces in it with no sense of humiliation, but it is a cruel wrong and one which he bitterly resents to compel him to accept as a ruler, as a person of authority, an effeminate Bengalee whom he hates and despises with all the intensity which a gallant, high-hearted race

feel for timidity and unmanliness. The right of conquest involves no right to inflict upon the vanquished this additional and quite needless degradation."

We can well appreciate the admiration which the *Times'* correspondent feels for the Sikh. But he might have spared the poor Bengali his invectives in his chivalrous attachment to the followers of Guru Nanuk. As a matter of fact no Bengali occupies the position in the Punjab against which he rails so violently. Indeed, the principle, which he advocates for the employment of the natives of each province in its own service, is followed in practice; the exceptions cited here and there are due solely to a consideration of the efficiency of the public service. But the writer is mistaken when he thinks that the Bengali is despised by his fellow-countrymen in the other provinces. The grand touch of English rule, English education and English civilization has made the whole Indian world akin. The segregation of the Indian races is not possible in the face of the unifying influences at work throughout the country. The Railway has removed distance, and the people of the different provinces of India now travel from one part of the country to the other to their mutual delight and advantage. The homogeniety of the principles of English rule has made them one in thought and feeling. They feel that they are the subjects of one sovereign, the participators of the same laws and institutions, the co-sharers of the same heritage of rights and privileges, and co-workers towards a common goal. And the most powerful bond of union between the different peoples of India is English education. From one end of India to the other the Indian may travel and draw the waters of fellow-feeling and sympathy from the widely diffused stream of English education, and so long as it will run its course, nothing can resist the progress of unification to which we have adverted above.

As for the alleged jealousy of the Bengali in the other provinces, we do not think that it does exist. We have abundant evidence that wherever he goes he is received with outstretched hands. Whether as a trader, a traveller, a settler, a Government servant, a political adviser, or a Brahma missionary, he is everywhere welcomed. In the North West the Bengali is resorted to as the best adviser in all matters of importance; some of the most influential leaders of society there are native gentlemen from Bengal. In the Punjab the same feeling is observable. In Oudh the most active apostle of improvement has been a Bengali. In Bombay and Madras the Bengalis have not settled, but Bengali travellers have always received the most hearty welcome. Some of the native chiefs have been also forward in availing themselves of the administrative talents of the Bengali. In the Legislative Council the Bengali is the trusted colleague of North India Members. A notable instance of the faith reposed in the Bengali by our countrymen in Upper India was shewn in the conversation which a Hindustani Raja, then a Member of the Governor General's Council, had with his colleagues, and which we reported at the time. He said that the Bengali knew the language of the Council, the history of legislation in this country, and the laws and usages of England, to which reference was often made in legislating for India, and that he would act as his adviser and interpreter if he had a seat in the Council—the Bengali had then no seat in it. We do not wish to arrogate to ourselves any credit when we say that our countrymen in all parts of India make this paper the exponent of their thoughts, sentiments, and feelings. And there are good reasons why there is such a large measure of sympathy between the Bengali and other Indians. Say what his traducers may, the Bengali has wide sympathies. He espouses the cause of every class of his countrymen, wherever situated, suffering from abuses of administration, oppressive taxation, unjust land settlement, arbitrary laws, or caprices, of men in power. Take for instance the present case of Baroda. The Bengali has no personal interest in the fortunes of the Gaekwar, but the affairs of Baroda have moved him as if the interests of his own country were trembling in the balance. The Bengali, while deeply grateful for the blessings of British rule, is solicitous that those blessings should be participated by all classes of his countrymen in the different provinces alike, and he is therefore always ready to advocate their interests and expose their wrongs with equal zeal. It is this catholicity of the Bengali mind, which receives universal sympathy throughout India—this chord which vibrates through the national heart all over the country.

REGISTRATION AND RENT.

ONE of the primary provisions of the Permanent Settlement regulations was that there should be an interchange of putta and kobuleut between the zemindar and ryot, but this rule was more honored in the breach than in the observance thereof. In those days the land sought the ryot and not the ryot the land and the tenants did not therefore care to enter into written contract. Such contract was not the fashion in days gone by; the word of the mouth was regarded as good as a bond, the people invoked the sun and moon and stars to witness their deeds. Times have however changed, and both the landlord and tenant now see the necessity for an interchange of leases. The Government has come forward to assist the people in securing their obligations by registration. According to the Registration Act all registered documents have a preference in judicial investigations. But in the hands of whimsical and ove-rzealous Mofusil Hakims the security of registration seems to be no security. This phase of judicial vagaries is well illustrated in a decision of Mr. Monro, Civil and Sessions Judge of Pubna. The reader is aware of the agrarian rising produced in Pubna by the impulsive and inflammatory action of the late Lieutenant Governor and his local representatives. We will not repeat the story of rent riots in Pubna; we are sorry to learn that the situation in that district has not yet much improved; the Courts are flooded with litigation, and some of the Judges instead of throwing oil over the troubled waters are feeding the agitation by setting the law at naught. We will say nothing as to the merits of the cases instituted in the courts; it is enough for us to say that even registration is not considered a sufficient protection to the landlord for the realization of his rents. We give below a judgment of Mr. Monro, the Civil and Sessions Judge of the district:

"This is an application for review of my judgment delivered in September 30th in case No. 251, and other analogous cases, when I granted the application for review I did so more from a feeling of sympathy for the Zemindars, who had lost so many important cases, than from any impression that my judgment was either defective or erroneous. I wished to afford the zemindars the very fullest opportunity of producing all the proof they had, and on that account I allowed the production of fresh evidence as to the proceedings which took place with reference the registration of kabulyats at the Registry Office. The evidence on this point has now been produced, the registering officer himself, and two of his amlahs having been examined.

All that the evidence of this witnesses establishes is that there was a custom in the registration office to interpret the general meaning of documents registered to the person presenting them for registration, and that this custom was followed with reference to these kabulyats.

I have no doubt that the witnesses are stating the truth when they say that such a custom prevailed. But it is a very important point to consider what this custom meant, and what the interpretation of contents of documents, which constituted the custom amounted to. It is a custom in all courts to administer an oath or solemn affirmation to witnesses and witnesses have to repeat the actual words of the oath so administered. But no one who has any experience of Courts would affirm otherwise than that nine-tenths of the witnesses to whom the oath is administered do not understand in the least what they are saying, and that they would repeat any thing said to them without the slightest glimmering of its meaning.

It is also a custom in courts to read over the evidence which a witness has given, and to certify that such evidence has been given in a language which the witness has understood and certified to be correct. But it is also a fact which cannot be denied, that nine-tenths of such witnesses do not understand what the presiding officer, or the amlah of the court read over to them, and yet that if asked whether what has been read over to them is their veritable deposition or not, they will unhesitatingly reply in the affirmative, although they have not understood a word of it.

I take these two instances of solemn customs, which, as a matter of fact and notoriety, are little better than mere forms—which convey no meaning to the parties chiefly interested in them viz., the witnesses—and which, so far as their effect on these witnesses is concerned might be dispensed with altogether.

It is therefore very necessary to enquire whether the custom of interpretation of contents of documents prevalent in the registration office, had any more reality and vitality in it, than the similar customs of administering oaths, and reading over depositions, which obtain in Civil and Criminal Courts.

It seems to me perfectly clear from the testimony of the registering officer that the customs of the registration office in this respect were very much like the practice of the courts. It is quite clear that the custom of the registration office, which was followed in these cases, made so little impression on the mind of the registering officers that he could not specify in what respects, with reference to these kabulyats the custom was observed, and how the interpretation of contents was effected. He cannot remember that the whole of the documents was explained to the ryots, but he thinks it possible or probable that the quantity of land and the amount of rent was indicated to them (*vide* answer to question No. 5th and No. 8th). Further on he remembers that the amount of rent payable was asked but he cannot recollect that the quantity of land was enquired into. And still further on he cannot recollect from what time this undefined custom has prevailed, but thinks it has obtained since he began to register such documents.

The two amlahs again are much more distinct and positive in their statements. They swear positively that the contents of each document were explained to each ryot presenting it, and specially that the quantity of land to be held and the amount of rent to be paid was indicated in every case. Now I do not believe the amlahs when they tell me this. It may have been a custom to believe in this being done, but when the registering officer himself, who had nothing else to do at the time of registration, states that he cannot remember how the contents were explained and when it is quite clear from the confused statement of that registering officer that he is a man of no method or regularity, I decline to believe that his amlahs were more regular or methodical than himself, or that they made of the custom of the office, anything more than their head did, viz., meaningless routine. If the contents of these kabulyats were explained at all it seems to me quite clear that they were explained very much, and with the same effect as the oath is administered and the depositions of witnesses read over—that is without, in the majority of instances, the observance of the custom conveying the least intelligible impressions to the mind of the party presenting the kabulyat, repeating the oath or hearing his depositions read over.

It is also clear, as I have observed in my original judgment that when the ryots went to execute, or register their kabulyats they did so without feelings of disquietude or hostility to the zemindar, for they were under the impression that they were executing engagements for their land at current rates. It is therefore not very likely that the observance of the meaningless custom of the registration office would excite their curiosity or arouse their attention. They were prepared to believe in their zemindar, and they were equally prepared to answer in the affirmative, any questions that were asked them, whether they understood them or not.

The remarks above made will show that I consider.—

1st. That there did exist a custom in the registration office of interpreting documents to parties presenting them.

2nd. That this custom was as much a matter of routine, as other apparently solemn customs in Courts.

3rd. That the observance of this custom under ordinary circumstances would convey no meaning to the parties chiefly interested.

4th. That there is nothing to show so far as the evidence of the best witness, the registering officer is concerned, how the custom ordinarily was observed, and nothing to show that, it was observed in the present instance in other than an ordinary manner i. e., in a manner fitted to convey any meaning.

5th. That I do not believe the amlahs when they say that in every case the custom was so observed as to convey meaning.

6th. That under such circumstances there is nothing to show that the ryots, at the time of registration understood what they were about from anything in the registration proceedings.

7th. That the registration proceedings afford no sufficient ground to make change or modify the opinion which I have expressed in my original judgment.

I adhere therefore to the opinion formerly expressed and to the judgment formerly delivered. The costs of review proceedings to be borne by applicants.

In the case of appeal No. 14, which by a clerical error on my part, was in the original judgment dismissed, the original order will alter the appeal being decreed with costs and not as stated in the first judgment dismissed with costs.

(Sd.) MONRO.
Judge.

December 31st 1874.

It will be observed from the above that Mr. Monro has little faith in the registration procedure, which he regards as much a farce as a judicial oath. Now the question is—if a judicial oath is a farce why is it held binding upon the witness? We cannot believe that Mr. Monro dares ignore the obligation of a judicial oath, for will he not punish a witness who in violation of his oath tells an untruth before a Court of justice, and thus commit perjury, and if so, why should he ignore the legal effect of registration. We have nothing to do with the merits of the cases of the Banerjees of Pubna, to which the foregoing judgment relates; the question is simply as to whether registration should not be allowed due effect when it has been formally observed. If an agricultural lease is not to be recognised, though duly registered, at the whim of a judge, what security can there be for the landlord or tenant as the case may be? Far better that the landlord should be told that the caprice of a Judge shall be the law than that he should be made to go through the expense and trouble of registration and then turned away on the pretext that registration is a farce. If the dictum of Mr. Monro should have the effect of law it would be better to abolish the registration of agricultural leases altogether. What wonder that with such a ruling to back them the ryots in Pubna should repudiate their obli-

gations and refuse to pay rents. A few more Judges like Mr. Monro, and Bengal would be soon reduced to lawlessness and anarchy.

INDIAN AGRICULTURE.

SIR JOHN STRACHEY, the author of the Resolution of the Government of India in 1870 on the constitution of the Agricultural Department, is now Lieutenant Governor of N. W. P., and he has lost no time in organizing a branch Agricultural Department for his own province. One would think that in common decency he would have waited till the success of the experiment launched into existence by Lord Mayo's Government was ascertained. While it is notorious that the new department has simply proved a burden on the revenue—Sir George Campbell in a recent address in England pronounced it to be "practically a failure"—the Lieutenant Governor of the North Western Provinces seeks to augment this waste of money by establishing a branch of this department. Sir George Campbell assigned good reasons why it has proved a failure. He said, "the fact was, that we required to educate ourselves before we attempted to educate the people of India." The natives of India, he continued, "though perhaps physically inferior to us, were not wanting in intelligence and industry, and eminently adapted for work requiring skill of hand and steadiness of head. But at the same time it was a population rapidly increasing and pressing on its means of subsistence. It was the duty of England to study how best those means might be increased and improved. It was impossible that the country could continue paying for her imports and paying what might be called a yearly tribute of some £13,000,000 or £14,000,000 without any return unless her own products were developed and her industrial resources strengthened and increased. First on the list of means whereby that end was to be obtained stood the science of agriculture. It was not too much, the speaker considered, to say that throughout the 100 years during which our rule had been dominant in India no improvement whatever had been effected in that quarter. How much we had ourselves advanced was known well enough, but we had done nothing for India. It was not that the Native system was of itself altogether bad, but it was the same that had existed for hundreds of years, and we had made no efforts to improve it, or at least our efforts had been attended with but little success. The Natives were skilful and industrious enough to be taught but we had not taught them." We do not quite go with Sir George in holding that the native of India has done nothing in the way of the improvement of agriculture within the last hundred years of British rule, though he is not much indebted to Government in that respect. He has learnt a great deal from independent Europeans. Lord Canning once said that the Indian has not much to learn from the European in agriculture; his method of cultivation, though rude, is efficient and economical. Steam ploughs are not required in a land, where the mere scratching of the soil yields abundance. But the Native is not slow to follow any method, or to cultivate any new staple, which promises to be remunerative. Take jute for instance. It was an independent European, whose capital and enterprise, first gave the impetus to the cultivation of jute, and now it has grown into a most important branch of our national industry and commerce. The Crimerian War encouraged the cultivation of the seeds, and it has gone on increasing. The potato was introduced from America and its cultivation is extending. The late American War stimulated the production of cotton and it is flourishing. Considerable additions have been made to our vegetable kingdom through European influence. But we are not satisfied that an agricultural bureau constituted as it is, will do much good. What special knowledge can Mr. Hume claim for guiding the agricultural operations of the country? Sir John Strachey's arguments for an Agricultural Department for the North-West are precisely those which he had urged for constituting the Agricultural Department of India. He says: "While the first duty of the proposed department would be the organization and collection of agricultural and commercial statistic, it must be remembered that one of the chief objects of the proposals made in 1870 by the Government of India was the practical improvement of agricultural staples." Can he point to a single improvement in this direction made by the Agricultural Department of India? Sir John Strachey says, "something has been done in this direction by the establishment of model farms in these districts of Allahabad, Cawnpore and Bulandshahur." Model farms of this description have been in existence in Madras for several years past, and they have been doing fairly enough, though there is no special Department of Agriculture to look after then. In the North-West, on the contrary, Sir John admits that "farms have hitherto failed to effect much good." The obvious reason is that they are not in good hands, but Sir John thinks that they have failed because there is no responsible controlling authority. He observes: "The object of these model farms should be three-fold. First, to obtain complete information, based on actual facts, as to the average productiveness of different crops on the different classes of soils on which they are ordinarily cultivated, and the cost of cultivation. Secondly, to establish and prove to the native agriculturists the advantanges to be gained from small improvements such as they are able themselves to carry out under existing condititions, such as deeper ploughing economical use of canal water, selection of seed, &c. Thirdly, to make experiments as to staples and industries which it may be possible to introduce, if new, or to familiarize and improve if already existing in the country. The extension of sericulture, improvement of indigenous fibres, and the manufacture of a finer class of tobacco may be mentioned among the objects of such experiments." The question arises, supposing that a central authority without any special knowledge would be useful, whether there is money enough for these experiments. Sir John points to the Wards Estates, but he himself furnishes answer to his own argument. It cannot be just "to try doubtful experiments at other people's expense," and yet he believes that "under proper superintendence, much might be done on these estates through the agency of the cultivators themselves. They might often be induced to try new seeds, new plants, or new methods of cultivation." And if the experiments should fail, who would suffer? Not the Government, but the proprietors of Wards' estates, who if capable would not certainly have undertaken doubtful experiments. Why should not the Government make such experiments on its own estates? The Government is groping on the dark, and is it fair or just that it should spend other people's money for the sake of gratifying its own whims or crotchets?

There can be no agricultural improvement without capital, and have the proprietors and cultivators in the North West capital for experiments? Sir John Strachey makes the following observations on this point:

"The facts stand out, that a year of scarcity reduces a large portion of the cultivating community to a condition of severe distress; that in some parts of the country the people are always underfed; that, throughout these provinces the majority of them are in debt to the money-lending classes. An examination of 1,000 cultivators, taken at random in a district in a Lower Doab, proved that while 25 per cent were irretrievably in debt, 50 per cent more were in the constant habit of borrowing, and that only 25 per cent never resorted to the money-lender at all. The fact is equally prominent, that a large number of proprietors who bore under the exactions of oppressive native Governments, have broken down or are breaking down under the demands of a Government whose intentions at least are infinitely more benevolent. The extreme importance of ascertaining the causes which tend to these results is apparent, and no better instrument for the purpose can be found than the Court of Wards' estates. They afford the opportunity of investigating facts connected with the condition of the cultivating classes of discovering what remedies may be applied for their improvement, and of ascertaining the results of investing capital, not only on works of agricultural utility, but also in relieving cultivators during periods of pressure and temporary scarcity with money or food, and in assisting them at proper times in the purchase of cattle or agricultural implements. There is little doubt that much capital, which is now expended upon land in the form of loans to cultivators by native money-lenders, might, with greater advantage to the agricultural community and with profit to itself, be expended by the Government, which, as chief proprietor of the land, is directly interested in securing the maintenance of such a full supply of labour and capital that a maximum outturn of produce may be always obtained. The Government, as the representative of the community at large, has a special interest in the welfare of the agricultural classes, which no more section of the community can possibly possess; and the Government has a direct object in preventing the decrease of agricultural produce, on which both the national wealth and the payment of its own revenues chiefly depend. It can, therefore, afford to make investments for the purpose of keeping agricultural operations up to the full standard beyond the limits within which money-lenders will come forward. Individual capitalists need lose nothing, but Government may lose much by a failure to maintain produce at the highest possible level.

The question of ascertaining within what limits it is possible for the Government to interfere for the welfare of the cultivating classes, and for the promotion of agricultural wealth, whether directly, by developing the system of advancing money for agricultural improvements, or by the establishment of agricultural banks, is one of the most important problems which has to be solved in these provinces. The question of establishing agricultural banks is, in particular, one which has long seemed to me to possess extreme interest and importance. No satisfactory solution of such questions can be expected until a much wider knowledge of detailed facts has been obtained. There is so little variety in the circumstances of the agricultural classes over extensive tracts of country in these provinces, that a really careful inquiry into the conditions existing in even a few villages in different parts may reasonably be expected to tell the history of larger areas."

Sir John Strachey has unconsciously passed the gravest censure upon the North-West settlement. He admits that it presses on the people, plunges them into debt, and clogs the springs of industry. Such are the effects of state landlordism, which is in the ascendant in the North-West. Sir John proposes to rectify the evils of the system by establishing agricultural banks. It would certainly be a beneficial measure, but that measure has no legitimate connection with the proposed department. The Agricultural banks must be worked by the District Collector, and the Board of Revenue is quite competent to exercise a general control over them. The Government we observe has as yet not even considered the question of the establishment of Agricultural Banks, and when such is the case, why spend money under false pretences upon an Agricultural Department? We are surprised to see it stated that the economical Government of Lord Northbrook has sanctioned this measure. The only practical purpose which it will subserve is the collection of statistics, and the Board of Revenue is quite able to discharge this task. Besides, there is now a statistical branch in every Secretariat, and there is a central bureau of statistics in connection with the Government of India. Why then, we ask again, waste money upon a Branch Agricultural Department for the North-Western Provinces?

THE GAEKWAR'S TRIAL.

WE reproduce from the morning papers the following telegrams reporting the progress of the Gaekwar's trial:

THE FIRST DAY.

Baroda, February 23.—The trial has commenced, Sir R. Couch presiding. Messrs. Scoble and Inverarity appeared for the prosecution, and Serjeant Ballantine, Messrs. Purcell, and Branson for the defence. Mr. Scoble opened the case by stating that the Gaikwar tempered with the Residency servants to obtain information, and instigated an attempt to poison Colonel Phayre with arsenic and diamond dust, and said that he had witnesses to prove that the Gaikwar made payments of money to the servants at the time of the attempt to poison. Damudhar Pant will say that the Maharaja applied to him for arsenic, and a diamond merchant will be called to prove that great secrecy was observed when diamond dust was sold. Books will also be produced, some of which show that attempts have been made to tamper with them. Damudhar's confession was made on promise of pardon, but not that of another witness, Mr. Phayre's ayah, who will be now examined.

23*rd*.—The ayah's examination in chief has been finished. She says that the Gaekwar and Selim asked her advice about giving something to turn Colonel Phayre's heart, but that she advised no sorcery. She was afraid they meant poison from what two men had told her. In cross-examination she denied the names she first mentioned. The case adjourned till to-morrow.

Bombay, February 24*th*.—The trial of the Gaikwar commenced yesterday. Mr. Scoble opened the case, and stated briefly the nature of the evidence to be produced. He promised that he would show that negotiations were opened by the Gaikwar with the Residency servants through confidential servants. The ayah was induced to visit the palace thrice. The third time she had an important conversation with the Residency (?), who gave her money. An important corroboration of the evidence was supplied by letters found in her room. Serjeant Ballantine announced that he should contend that such letters were not evidence. Mr. Scoble agreed to reserve the point. He said that the Queen's advocate would show, by Damodar Pant's confession, that the Gaikwar ordered poison, and that corroborative evidence would be supplied by the Maharaja's private account-books. Further material evidence was that, in visiting Colonel Phayre after the poisoning attempt was made, the Gaikwar minutely described Colonel Phayre's actual symptoms, and said that there was much sickness of that kind about, from which he had suffered himself. The ayah was the first witness. She detailed the circumstances of her three visits to the palace. On the third visit she was asked, in the Maharaja's presence, what would be the effect if anything were given to the sahib. She warned the Maharaja that, should anything injurious happen to Colonel Phayre, he would be ruined. Cross-examined by Serjeant Ballantine why she did not inform her master, she said that no mention was made of poison, but from the interview she felt convinced that an attempt was intended.

THE SECOND DAY.

Baroda, February 24*th*.—The trial was resumed when all were present; but the Gaekwar only in the forenoon. The ayah's examination is concluded, she said that she did not mention to anybody what she knew, even after the attempt to poison Colonel Phayre, because the enquiry was made not in regard to her going to the Palace but to the poisoning. The Gaekwar did not tell her anything about poison, but sorcery; she, however, understood poison was meant, because she had heard something before that. She had been kept in the custody of the Police since she stated what she knew

She had said nothing at first to Mr. Souter about poisoning but afterwards declared all that she knew. Fyza Ramzan, the next witness had accompanied the ayah to the Palace. His evidence was corroborative, but he denied that he had persuaded her as she had said. Cross-examined, he said that he was afraid to mention about his having gone to the Palace, because he was suspected of poisoning Colonel Phayre himself, and was frightened by the driver of his carriage who gave corroborative evidence. Karim said that he had accompanied the ayah on the second occasion. His evidence generally supported the case, but the consideration of the discrepancy between the present statement and that before Mr. Souter has been postponed till to-morrow.

THE THIRD DAY.

Baroda, February 25, 4-30 A. M. After a discussion about the interpretation, Sundul was called, who drove Kurreem with the ayah on the occasion of her second visit to the Palace. He identifies both arrived about ten o'clock at night and called Salim, who took the ayah and Kurreem into the Palace and returned near midnight. Kurreem paid him next evening. He at first made this statement when the Bombay Police came, and made an arrangemment which is not to be published lest he be burned alive. Bhow Scindia, a great man, to be trampled under elephant, so the poor man was afraid, and made his statement last night to Mr. Cleveland. Havildar Abdul Ali interpreted Syud, a camel-driver, and took him to the Police Syud was identified as Sadak. All who made charge of torture against the Gaekwar on the former commission. Dinkur Rao asked him. Could he know the ayah? Kurreem replied that he has seen them when driving to the Residency. Interpretor Flyme weared. Nowrojee was sworn. Chotu boy, a servant of the ayah was described as the third to drive to the palace. He called Salim, who went with the ayah into the palace, but was not confined by the Policeman who follows him and the witness together, but since the sittings began they are separated. Dawood, a driver, identified Abdul the ayah's husband, who hired a Gharry and called to Salim who took the ayah into the Palace. He had communicated with Sundul about Kurreem.

Baroda, February 25.—Dawood, the driver on the third occasion of the Ayah visited the Palace was closely cross-questioned by Serjeant Ballantine. Sundul was recalled and both were asked, when the first named Kurreem, and the statement made in Mr. Boevey's Bungalow caused much laughter when Sundul indicated Mr. Souter as Boevey, both were afraid of mentioning Kurreem, lest they be killed. They were afraid still of Mr. Butler. Abdul, the husband of the ayah, was called. He identifies three letters. Serjeant Ballantine argues these letters as inadmissible. He quotes. Norton's Edition of Evidence Act. Advocate-General says that the Notification gives the President power to call for documents of any kind and likely to throw a light to investigations. These letters corroborate the ayah's statement when she visited the Palace by the instigation of Eshwuntrao Salim. He cites the Eleventh Section of the Indian Evidence Act. The Chief Justice finally consents.

25.—Mulharrao was present in the Court to-day till two o'clock. Two Gharrywallahs were examined and spoke to taking of the ayah on her second and third visits to the Palace. Many contradictions took place on the minor points. The ayah's husband proved her mentioning her visits, and letters that passed between them were produced, to which Serjeant Ballantine objected, but eventually agreed to admit them as proof that the ayah took interest in Baroda Politics.

THE FOURTH DAY.

Baroda, 26th February, 16h. 10m. In Shaik Abdulla's cross-examination he admitted having carried on previous correspondence. Mr. Souter came to know of his visit to the palace because Chetoo, and Sundul too, mentioned to Mr. Souter that they had been driven there. He was confined and released shortly after. Since his wife was examined they have been kept apart. Serjeant Ballantine left the Court for one hour. Syed Abdul Rahiman, the next witness, stated that he wrote letters at the ayah's dictation. A letter which was despatched, but which did not reach the ayah,s husband, was put in evidence. He admitted writing a letter at the ayah's dictation to the Gaekwar before the other. The contents of the letter were to the following effect, soliciting money, and made inquiries about the Governor's house. The ayah being recalled substantiated the last witness's statement regarding the dictation of the letters, gave particulars and swore that the contents were as dictated. An enclosure was addressed to Salim for the Gaekwar. Pedro D'Souza, Colonel Phayr'es butler, said he had received sixty rupees from Salim, the Gaekwar's sowar. He denied going to the palace or receiving a packet of any kind. Never saw the Gaekwar.

Baroda, 26th Februaru, 19h. 10m. The first batch of witnesses finished their evidence to-day. He narrated the dates of his stay at Colonel Phayre called. Bombay the Gaekwar visited him biweekly accompanied by favorits. He described the situation of his office at the Residency where the sherbet was placed daily. Unhealthy symptoms set in about the middle of September; suffered from a bad boil on the forehead and a cold in his head. He suspected the sherbet in the beginning of October. On the sixth of November he sipped his sherbet but threw the rest away. Unusual symptoms appeared at midday. Felt worse on the seventh, after the sherbet. On the morning of the ninth while returning to the Residency from a walk, was met by Raojee salaaming in an unusual manner. Found the sherbet ready as usual. Sipped, but after twenty minutes felt squeamish and threw the sherbet through the window into the Chunam Verandah; then stopped, detecting a dark sediment in the bottom of the tumbler. He was struck with the idea that he was poisoned. Summoned Dr. Seward. Gave the remains of the sherbet to him for analysis. Described the symptoms. Dr. Seward left the tumbler concealed. The Gaekwar arrived complaining of similar symptoms, attributing them to *dewalee* sweetmeats. Escorting Gaekwar on his departure from the Residency Yestwuntrao, a favorite, presented the usual state presents *dewalee* sweetmeats. The Gaekwar was warned not to eat certain sweets if they disagreed him.

The Gaekwar was absent to-day.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE HEAR that in May the Hon'ble Ashley Eden C. S. I. takes leave for six months, and that Mr. Rivers Thompson will officiate for him as Chief Commissioner of British Burma. A better selection could not have been made. Mr. Thompson unites to the untiring energy of a vigorous executive the rare balance of a judicial mind. His withdrawal from the Bengal Government will be a serious loss to it.

HIS HIGHNESS the Maharaja Holkar and his clever Minister, Sir Madhava Rao, have evidently made the best of their eyes whilst sojourning in Calcutta. His Highness was busy the whole of last week in visiting different parts of the Town. Of noble stature and fine manly bearing His Highness has a commanding appearence, and surrounded by his courtiers dressed in white and red, he presented quite a picturesque sight amid an imposing group of ladies and gentlemen in the magnificent saloon of the Vice-regal palace where he was entertaind by His Excellency the Viceroy at an Evening Party on Thursday last. His Highness was also entertained on Saturday last at Belvedere. His Highness made pooja at Kalighat on a grand scale, and we are told that he has given handsome donations to our local charities, the details of which we have not received. On Friday night His Highness was present with his wives and suite at the Great National Theatre, and paid the company Rs. 1,000 for their trouble. Last night Raja Harendra Krishna invited the native gentry of Calcutta to meet His Highness. No pains were spared to give the august visitor a reception worthy of his exalted rank, and we make no doubt that His Highness was pleased with what he saw and heard. The *elite* of Native Society were present on the occasion to pay their respects to the illustrious visitor. This morning at 10-30 A. M. His Excellency the Viceroy will hold a farewell durbar in honor of His Highness, who we hear will leave Calcutta on Wednesday next.

AT THE last sitting of the Governor General's Council Mr. Hobhouse moved the appointment of a new Select Committee upon the Amended Civil Procedure Bill. This Bill was drafted by the late Sir Henry Harrington in 1864, and ten years have elapsed since that date; the draft was submitted to the Indian Law Commission, who advised delay, but Mr. Hobhouse thinks that the time has now arrived for the resumption of this great work. It is proposed to revise the draft by the Select Committee and then republish it for general information.

AFTER a career of forty-four years the Hon'ble F. B. Kemp, Judge of the High Court, Bengal, is about to retire. He is now the father of the Indian Civil Service. He arrived in India in 1831, and has been in harness with rare intermission. He is a fair type of the old civilian; not showy but sound; full of sympathy with the people but rarely going beyond his province to demonstrate it; moving in an atmosphere of his own, he was not given to violent likes or dislikes; only once did he make a demonstration, it was when he came in collision with the Missionary Underhill. As a Judge of the High Court he has been steady, pains-taking, patient, and kind-hearted. He is the owner of a large estate, which includes the Kemp town, the leases of which it is said will shortly fall in. Mr. Justice Kemp is a sincere well-wisher of this country, and carries home our best wishes. We hear that the judgeship, which will become vacant on Mr. Kemp's retirement, was offered to Mr. Rivers Thompson, who however declined it on the ground that he had long been out of the judicial line. It is not unlikely that Mr. H. T. Prinsep, the Civil and Sessions Judge of Hooghly, may be invited to take the vacant seat.

WE HEAR that the Lieutenant Governor has appointed Mr. Sconce, the Fourth Judge of the Small Cause Court, who is a barrister, to officiate for Mr. Fagan, who takes privilege leave for three months. This arrangement will obviate the necessity of paying a new Judge from the general funds. But we are surprised to learn that instead of promoting Mr. Jones, the Fifth Judge, who too is a barrister, to Mr. Sconce's place, the Government proposes to give it to an outsider, Mr. Allen, a briefless barrister, who accepts it we are told on Rs. 550 a month. This arrangement involves a gross injustice to Mr. Jones, a highly deserving officer.

WE ARE SORRY to observe that the protest made by Babu Nemy Churn Seal, Municipal Commissioner of Hooghly, against the arbitrary action of Mr. Pellew, the Magistrate, towards him has ended in smoke. The following Resolution has been recorded by the Lieutenant Governor on the subject:

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.
(Resolution.)
JUDICIAL MUNICIPAL.
Dated Calcutta, the 9th February 1875.

Read a petition dated the 29th Ultimo from Baboo Nemye Chund Seal, one of the Municipal Commissioners for the town of Hooghly, complaining of the orders of Mr. Pellew, the Magistrate, suspending him from exercising the functions of a Municipal Commissioner.

Order.—Ordered that the Petitioner be informed that the case appears to have been disposed of by the Magistrate and calls for no orders from Government. If in future the Petitioner has any communication to adress to Government in such a case the Lieutenant Governor must insist that he makes it through the Commissioner of the Division.

No 617.

Copy forwarded for information of the petitioner.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.
(Sd.) J. CRAWFORD,
Offg. Under-Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

Could any thing be more lame than this? Babu Nemy Churn had distinctly complained of the arbitrary proceedings of Mr. Pellew, and pointed out that in his last letter the Magistrate had not definitively withdrawn the sentence of suspension, and still the Lieutenant Governor is pleased to say that the matter has been disposed of by the Magistrate. On the other hand the petitioner is snubbed because he did not come through the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division. Babu Nemy Churn has as a matter of course resigned. We give below his letter of resignation:

To

THE HON'BLE RIVERS THOMPSON,
Secy to the Govt. of Bengal.
Chinsurah 22nd February 1875.

SIR,—As His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has not, in His Honor's Orders No. 617 dated the 9th instant, on my memorial, disapproved of the arbitrary proceedings of Mr. Pellew the Magistrate of Hooghly with respect to me, and as I cannot any longer serve Government and the public without losing all self- respect and sense of honor, I beg hereby to tender my resignation of the post of a Municipal Commissioner of the towns of Chinsurah and Hooghly.

I have &c.
(Sd.) NEMYE CHUND SEAL.

No gentleman with self-respect should have under the circumstances retained the commission, and Babu Nemychund is quite right in resigning. He rendered important services to the Municipality during the five years he served, acted as Honorary Magistrate, as a Member of the Education Committee, and as Secretary to the District Famine Relief Committee of 1874, and has always shewn considerable public spirit, and this is his reward! His treatment is a cruel commentary on the principle of local self-government.

SOMEWHAT ugly news comes from the Sonthal Pergunnahs. The patriarchal rule, which Sir George Campbell introduced in that tract in supersession of the reign of law, and which he left as a legacy to his successor, is bearing fruit. The Settlement Officers are, we are told, settling the land without any regard to right, usage, or equity, but still the Sonthals are not satisfied. They have lately discovered a stone cave, which they say was the home of their ancestors, and thousands are flocking thither with vessels filled with milk and water. They have given out that their Raj is at hand. We have not heard whether any outrages have been actually committed.

BY ONE stroke of his pen Colonel Keatinge, the Chief Commissioner of Assam has taken away the bread from the mouths of six Bengali officers working in that province. The *Assam Gazette* of the 20th instant contains the following notification on the subject:

ESTABLISHMENT.
No. 13 *of the* 13*th February* 1875.

DISMISSAL.—The services of the following subordinates are dispensed with from the dates specified:—

UPPER SUBORDINATES.

Baboo Gris Chundra Das, Overseer, Lower Assam Division, with effect from the 26th March 1875.
" Bodyanath Chandra, Overseer, Central Assam Division. with effect from the 1st April 1875.

Lower Subordinates with effect from 1st April 1875.

" Bholanath Dass, Sub-Overseer, Lower Assam Division.
" Haronath Chand, Sub-Overseer, Lower Assam Division.
" Shitanath Sen, Sub-Overseer, Lower Assam Division."
" Rajkrishna Sinha, Sub-Overseer, Upper Assam Division.

What are the offences of these poor officers that their services have been dispensed with? Have they been guilty of misconduct? The

Gazette is wholly silent on the subject. A correspondent, who draws our attention to the notification,says that the only reason he has heard assigned is that better men may be found for the offices th dismissed men held on the same pay. If officer in the employ of Government are to be dismissed on such flimsy pretext, then no one can be considered safe in the tenure of his office. Suppose the logic on which Colonel Keatinge is reported to have proceeded were stretched a little further, would the gallant gentleman b himself safe? Could not an abler man be found to accept his post on Rs. 50,000 a year? We hope we have been misinformed as to the reason of this wholesale dismissal.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE'S Resolution on the levy of illegal cesses throws oil over troubled water. The reader is aware that Sir George Campbell had very nearly excited an agrarian war in Bengal and would have succeeded but for the firmness and judgment of Lord Northbrook. The question was referred to Sir Richard Temple for consideration, and we have much pleasure in making the following extracts from his reply. The Revenue Secretary to the Government of Bengal thus writes to the Home Secretary:

"I am directed to say that in the Lieutnant-Governor's opinion the evidence leaves no room for doubt that cesses unauthorized by law have been very generally levied, that in many, perhaps in the majority of cases they have been levied with the assent of those concerned, but that in some cases and in some parts of the country, they have been exacted in an oppressive manner.

At the same time Sir Richard Temple recognizes the fact that in many districts of Bengal, cesses not authorized by the law have been demanded and paid, by a kind of tacit composition between landlord and tenant, in lieu of any enhancement of rent. This is specially the case in the Eastern and East Central districts, where rents are in general extremely low, and though on some estates they have been raised during the last few years, they have nowhere been enhanced in a degree corresponding with the rise of general prices and the increased value of agricultural produce. In these districts 8 annas and 12 annas per beegha are still common rates of rent for lands of good quality, producing valuable crops. The agricultural classes in Eastern Bengal are in a very prosperous condition, and the zemindars might reasonably claim some share of the increased returns from the land. Rents, however, in these districts are regulated rather by custom than by competition; enhancements are rare, and ejectments are almost unknown. The increased payments by the tenantry consequently took the form of cesses—form not recognized by the law, but in harmony with native ideas; and the amount of them was seldom more than the landlords might equitably have claimed in the shape of enhanced rent.

Under these circumstances, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that any active and general interference on the part of the officers of Government to prevent the payment of these cesses would not only bear harshly upon the landholding class, but might lead to consequences greatly to be deprecated. There would be a general rise of rents, and in the end the law would perhaps make the ryot liable for as much as he is now paying, while large sums would have been spent in litigation, and the embittered feelings which the contest would have produced would tend to make a lasting breach between landlords and tenants.

The circumstances of the province of Orissa are in some respects exceptional. The ryots there are in general poorer and more ignorant than those of Bengal or Behar; and the inquiries made by local officers in 1871, brought to notice numerous instances of highhanded oppression and excessive exactions on the part of the zemindars. These considerations induced Sir George Campbell to recommend the adoption in Orissa of special measures for the effectual protection of the people. It has been already remarked that these proposals were not approved by the Government of India and the Secretary of State

It appears to the Lieutenant-Governor, that if interference is not to be exercised in Orissa, in the direction and to the extent which Sir George Campbell desired, no other action need be taken than such as is indicated in the Resolution of the 30th May, 1873. And action of this kind, Sir Richard Temple is inclined to think, will now supply all that is necessary. I am to point out that the conditions of the question have somewhat altered since the enquiries on the subject were held in 1871. The peasantry of Orissa are probably still in a more backward state than the ryots of other districts in the Lower Provinces; they are imperfectly acquainted with their rights, and are but little disposed to claim the protection of the law. But from recent reports from the local authorities, and from what the Lieutenant-Governor himself saw of the condition of the province during his recent visit, it appears certain that the ignorance, obstructiveness, and timidity which formerly characterized the people are steadily, though it may be slowly, giving place to spirit of intelligence and independence. The last administration report of the Commissioner of Orissa contains some striking remarks upon the advance which the province is making not only in material wealth but in social and intellectual progress; while there is a noteworthy absence of the complaints which were formerly rife, of oppression on the part of the zemindars towards their tenantry. On the whole, the Lieutenant-Governor finds reason to believe that in Orissa the question of zemindary cesses is tending towards a natural and peaceful solution, and consequently he does not think it necessary to recommend that any special measures should be adopted in that province.

Finally, I am to represent that the events of 1874 have exhibited the zemindars in a very favourable light. Throughout the distressed districts the great majority of the zemindars have not merely exhibited the passive charity of forbearing to press their ryots for rent, but they have displayed an active benevolence, a readiness to assist and to contribute, which the Lieutenant-Governor has already publicly acknowledged, and without which he feels that the utmost efforts of Government might have failed to wholly avert the impending calamity. Sir Richard Temple hopes and believes that the occurences of the past year will not be without their permanent fruits; that the zemindars will persevere in moderate courses towards their ryots, and that the questions still unsettled between them will be approached by both parties in a spirit of mutual kindliness and forbearance.

I am therefore to say, with reference to your letter under reply, that the Lieutenant-Governor has no further suggestions to offer than those which have been already submitted to the Government of India in the Resolution of this Government, dated 30th May, 1873. He concurs with his predecessor in thinking that while cases of the extortion of illegal cesses by violence should not be suffered to go unpunished, and while District Officers may properly interfere in instances of clear oppression (if such instances should unhappily occur), the question may in general be left to adjust itself in the manner which will naturally result from the gradual spread of education, intelligence, and independence among the classes from whom these cesses have hitherto been levied.

Although, as seen above, the Lieutenant-Governor is hopeful that both parties concerned, landlord and tenant, will see that their true interest lies in respecting each other's rights, still he is prepared to watch and note any indications of a contrary tendency, to collect and compare from time to time the best informed opinion in the interior of the country, and to adopt any protective or preventive measures which may appear necessary, and which may be within the competency of executive authority. If in any case or cases the zemindars were to really oppress the ryots, or if the ryots were to combine to resist the lawful requirements of the zeminders, the Governor General in Council may depend upon prompt action being taken by the Government of Bengal.

His Excellency the Governor General in Council "concurs in the views of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor as to the manner in which cases of oppression and illegal exaction by zemindars in the Lower Provinces of Bengal, should be dealt with."

Correspondence.

A CONTRADICTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

SIR,—You have been kind enough to review at considerable length my new work on the Peasantry of Bengal. Regarding the general tenor of your review I have not a word to say; it is unfortunate we differ so much for our opinions,—but we view the subject from different stand-points.

But there is one point on which I have a few words to say. My book, you say "is a terrible indictment against the English rulers of this country." I cannot believe you could have any motive in so grossly misrepresenting the objects of my book, yet I do not understand why most of your quotations should have been from the chapters in which I ventured to point out the mistakes of *early* English legislation in this country; or how you could have over-looked the entire pages in which I have described the beneficial results actually brought about by the *regime* of our present rulers. I would refer your readers to pages 78, 79, 80, 82, 94, 36, 184, 185, 203, 204, 205 and 206 of my book, in which pages the strongest language in my command has been used to describe the blessings conferred by the English rule. I cannot of course ask you to quote all these passages in your columns, but as a slight reparation of the harm you have done me I shall request you to be so good as to give the following concluding passage of the book a *prominent insertion* in your paper.

"It is a disheartening fact, but none the less true, that if British Power is withdrawn from the country, before fifty years have elapsed, the peasantry will sink down once more into that complete and voiceless servitude from which they have risen. And yet our rulers need not despond. If one man is happier for one day it is so much gained for the cause of mankind; if the Peasantry of Bengal are happier under British administration than they were or would be under other rulers,—that is so much gained for humanity, that is a fact of which England may be deservedly proud."

Yours faithfully,
R. C. DUTT.

☞ We gladly make room for the above letter. We should be very sorry, indeed, if our remarks on Babu Romesh Chunder Dutt's book should do him any "harm." As for his general appreciation of the beneficence of English rule we believe nobody questions it, but we did not misrepresent him, when we alluded to his indictment against the English legislators of this country. The extracts we gave were the best evidence of our assertion. He considers even Act X of 1859, the Ryot's Charter, as a "feeble protection to him." ED. H. P.

DR. SIRCAR'S SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

DEAR SIR,—I regret to find that Dr. Sircar has gratuitously taken me to task for "heaping ridicule upon his devoted head." I emphatically say that so far as I am concerned, the very thought is as far from my mind as the stars.

Dr. Sircar is rather unkind in mangling me while quoting my letter I, as well as every body else, have quite a distinct idea of his scheme and had it long before Father Lafont's explanation was forthcoming. When I said that the sum already subscribed for was "quite adequate," I did not for a moment think of the scheme in its entirety; for I all along thought it unwise to wait till the whole scheme could be realised at once. In fact, if Dr. Sircar will be pleased to go through my letter he will find that I distinctly spoke of making "a fair *start*" only. And as to the utility of taking such a step soon, it is no "small relief" also to find the Revd. Father at one with me.

Dr. Sircars' scheme, as it seems to me, is to promote original researches in all departments of science. What here occurs to me is that a general knowledge of what is already known about a subject should be the ground-work on which to base further investigations upon it. It may be said that our present educational institutions supply the needful amount of information. To any one behind the screen however, it will be obvious what a sham the whole thing is. I know of people who prefer the Physics branch of the B. A. Course to its mathematical one, *simply* from a notion that they will be able to get it up *by heart* easily! Remarks on such a state of things are needless. The proposed Science Association to be properly useful, therefore, must I think include this department also. It should not only be the University, but also the Schools and Colleges which will be its feeders—something like to what I conceive the Royal Institution of England to be. And it is to this, viz., trying to diffuse sound knowledge by popular lectures &c., that I directed Dr. Sircar's attention in my last, rather than towards "the Endowment of Research" which is the ultimate aim of the Association. And to start in his direction at the outset I still maintain humbly, though as firmly as ever, that Rs. 50,000 ought to be more than enough. I rejoice to find that the noble projector has come forward to remove a misconception about the proposed scheme, which did perhaps more mischief than he may be aware of. Now that it is clearly proclaimed that there is no minimum limit to the subscriptions, our countrymen must be too obtuse to their own interests, if they will still keep their purse-strings tight. It was this notion alone that had hitherto kept many back from taking the step next to the mere *feeling* "interested," as the learned Doctor complains. It is now to be hoped however, that the list will be rapidly filled up, and a respectable sum worthy of the project realised, while the metal is still hot.

To show that I for one am really in earnest about the matter I request your favour in putting my name down for Rs. 100 one hundred, a mite which I would have made larger had my means permitted.

Yours Faithfully,
G.

Purulia, Manbhoom, 17th February 1875.

THE MHAOMEDAN MARRIAGE BILL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

SIR,—Will you please, in justice to the Mahomedan community, give insertion to the following in an early issue of your valuable journal.—

The desirability or otherwise of the passing of the Mahomedan Marriage Bill in to law, has been a moot question in the Mahomedan community of late.

Some of the leading and respectable Mahomedan gentlemen of Calcutta were a few days back, invited by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to offer their respective opinions as to how far the Bill in question would affect their religion. The majority were in favor of the measure; the only exception being the Shiab gentlemen, who said they are not competent to hazard their opinions without consulting their *mujtahid* (the learned). Among the Sunnies almost all the gentlemen present cried ditto with the opinion of X, without, perhaps, knowing thoroughly, what the Bill itself contained. But there was one gentleman, Mis Mahomed Ali, a respectable zemindar of Faridpur who threw out some suggestions worth noticing; they are substantially to the following effect:—

That the Bill should on its face show some apparent advantage to the community to be affected by it. He therefore suggests that the registration of a marriage be made a *prima facie* evidence, and in the case of a dispute between a registered and unregistered marriage, let the former have preference in a court of justice, in the absence of any evidence of a satisfactory nature in support of the latter. His ground for the suggestion is, that the registration of the marriages being voluntary, not affecting the validity or invalidity of marriages, the object of the law would be altogether defeated when there is nothing to induce the people to take the trouble of registering their marriages.

The word "others" in Section VII of the Bill would have the effect of compelling such women to appear before Kazi, as are not purdanashin, and yet who would not at any hazard make their appearance before a court, although in consequence of poverty they are obliged to go out, fetch water, and do other out-door work consistent with their customs and privacy. But nothing could induce them to show their face before a public court. It would be better if these "others" were also allowed the liberty of appearing through a Vakil.

In Section VIII. the word "man" may be replaced by the word person; as a divorce may be effected both by the husband and the wife especially empowered by the *kabeen*.

The doctrine of the Sunni creed allows such power being given to the wife, instances of which are not wanting.

Section IX. allows the Kazi to take gratuities. This would open a door for the Kazies for extortion from the illiterate public. It is therefore suggested, that a rate of fees, in proportion to the amount of *Muhur*, may be fixed which would be benificial to the Kazi and the poor class.

There was one gentleman who insisted on the registration being made compulsory, but his suggestion met with general disapproval.

That the Bill does not in any way interfere with the Mohamedan religion is decided by the view of the learned Mahomedans.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette.—*February* 24, 1875.

GENERAL.—*The 17th February* 1875.—Mr. Krishna Gobind Gupta, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Backergunge, is allowed leave for three weeks, to enable him to attend the Examination for High Proficiency in Sanskrit to be held in Calcutta in April 1875.

The 18th February 1875.—Baboo Nobin Chunder Mitter, Sub-Deputy Collector, Tirhoot, is allowed leave for one month, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under orders of the 4th January 1875.

The services of Mr. W. H. Hudson, on special duty in Sarun, are replaced at the disposal of the Government of the North-Western Provinces with effect from the 4th January 1875.

The 17th February 1875.—Captain William Hopkinson Assistant Commissioner, on leave, is posted to the district of Lohárdugga.

Baboo Banka Behary Bakshi, Canoongo of the first Grade is appointed temporarily to be an Extra Sub-Deputy Collector of the second Grade in the Jamooee Division of the Monghyr district for the collection of advances made during the late famine.

Mr. Alexander Smith, Magistrate and Collector of the Second Grade, Jessore, is promoted to the First Grade of Magistrates and Collectors, *vice* Mr. W. LeF. Robinson, appointed to the Commissionership of the Chota Nagpore Division.

Mr. William Kemble, Magistrate and Collector of the Second Grade, Purneah, is appointed to act in the First Grade of Magistrates and Collectors, *vice* Mr. E. E. Lowis, appointed to act as Commissioner of Chittagong.

Mr. Nathaniel Stuart Alexander, Magistrate and Collector of the Second Grade, Tipperah, is appointed to act until further orders in the First Grade of Magistrates and Collectors, with effect from the date on which Mr. F. H. Pellew may take leave preparatory to proceeding on furlough.

The 20th February 1875.—Mr. William Benjamin Oldham is appointed to act as a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the First Grade in Midnapore, with effect from the date on which he made over charge of the office of Magistrate and Collector of Midnapore to Mr. H. L. Harrison, up to the date on which he may take subsidiary leave preparatory to proceeding on furlough.

The 22nd February 1875.—Mr. Andrew William Cochran, Acting Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Midnapore, is appointed to act in the First Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors until further orders.

Mr. Henry Granville Sharp, B.A., Acting Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Gya, is appointed to act until further orders in the First Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors.

Mr. Charles Deslandes Church Winter, Acting Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Moorshedabad, is appointed to act in the First Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors until further orders.

Mr. George Goodair Dey, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Sarun, is appointed to act in the Second Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors until further orders.

Mr. James Pratt, M. A. Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Mymensing, is appointed to act in the Second Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors until further orders.

Mr. Richard Herbert Greaves, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Cuttack, is appointed to act until further orders in the Second Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors.

The services of Mr. James Taylor Deputy Accountant-General, on special duty for the inspection of all famine treasuries and sub-treasuries in the distressed districts, are replaced at the disposal of the Government of India in the Financial Department with effect from the 19th February 1875.

The 23rd February 1875.—Baboo Isuree Pershad, Sub-Deputy Collector, Southal Pergunahs, is appointed temporarily to be an Assistant Settlement Officer in the Southal Pergunahs.

The services of Mr. James Crawfurd, Acting Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

Mr. Charles Edward Buckland, B. A., Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor, is allowed leave for six weeks, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 22nd February 1875.

Mr. Colman Patrick Louis Macaulay, M.A., is appointed to act, until further orders, as Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

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ROBERT TURNBULL.
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